

THE GUARDIAN

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Embattled president accepts freeze on defence spending

Reagan forced to concede on arms

From Alex Brummer in Washington

In a significant political setback, President Reagan, desperate to cut the huge budget deficits without a tax increase, yesterday agreed to accept a freeze in defence spending.

There were dramatic scenes in the Senate as a \$56 billion deficit reduction plan, which includes a freeze on retirement pensions, was finally passed by 50 votes to 49 in the early hours of yesterday morning.

Hopes of an early cut in interest rates surged through Wall Street yesterday as the President, in return for the military spending freeze,

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which effectively ends his string of congressional successes on the military budget. **BUDGE & FLANK**

On his return to the White House last night, Mr Reagan said: "How sweet it is to return home to 50-49 victory for spending restraints and no tax increase. I am convinced this is the only serious budget package that could have been passed."

He said he felt jeopardised in the area of national security and he pledged to ask for supplementary defence money.

But even with the White House concessions on defence spending and retirement pensions, which the President promised not to cut in his reelection campaign, there may still be serious problems in getting the package through the Democratic-controlled House which is likely to have

severe doubts about the social security freeze.

The Democratic plans in the House all include some modest tax increase on America's large corporations — a step the White House is determined to avoid.

The fragility of the deal worked out between Mr Reagan and the Senate majority leader, Senator Robert Dole, was evident from the high drama of the vote itself. The final vote was taken shortly before 2 a.m. when the Republican senator from California, Senator Pete Wilson, was brought to the Capitol by ambulance from the Bethesda Naval Hospital, where he is recovering from a ruptured appendix.

Senator Wilson was pushed into the Senate chamber in a wheelchair and with an intravenous tube attached to his body. He received a standing ovation from both Republicans and Democrats.

Speaking from his wheelchair, Senator Wilson told the Senate: "I think this package is a terrible turkey but the alternative of not producing a budget would be worse."

Under the plan, some \$56 billion will be slashed from the budget in the 1986 financial year and the projected deficit of \$200 billion will be cut in half over the next three years to \$106 billion.

This prospect brightened the New York financial markets yesterday. Share prices shot up on Wall Street and the US top monetary guru, Dr Henry Kaufman, of Salomon Brothers, predicted that the Federal Reserve, America's central bank, would reduce its key discount rate in the next two or three weeks.

This he expected would be

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7m face £500m cuts in housing benefit

By David Hencke, Social Services Correspondent

More than 7 million people claiming housing benefit — including 4 million pensioners — are to face cuts almost at saving £500 million, probably before the end of the year, the Cabinet is understood to have decided.

The Cabinet made its decision on Thursday, when it discussed the reviews of the welfare system carried out by Mr Norman Fowler, the Social Security Secretary.

Support for water rates for those on supplementary benefit is also to be abolished. Some three and a half million claimants now receiving supplementary benefit are to be asked to pay 20 per cent of their rates bills in order to cut another £250 million from the present £4 billion a year housing benefit bill.

The Cabinet has also decided to abolish the right of the unemployed to claim mortgage interest payments from supplementary benefit for the first six months of the year. Building societies are to be asked to waive the interest payments or renegotiate the loans.

This change will affect at least 235,000 people and substantially reduce the £170 million a year spent by the Department of Social Security on mortgage interest payments.

Details of the Cabinet decisions have been passed to Mr Gordon Brown, Labour MP for Dundee, who yesterday announced that he was tabling a series of questions to Mr Fowler.

Housing benefit is at present claimed by 4 million pensioners; one and a half million unemployed; one million low wage earners; 650,000 single parents and 250,000 sick and disabled.

Under the proposed changes 1.5 million people would cease to be eligible to claim benefit. Over 12 million would be home owners — mainly people receiving occupational pensions. The remaining 600,000 would be private and council tenants.

The remaining 5 million will suffer under plans to replace the two taper systems — one for rents and one for rates — with a single simplified system. The new single taper would be applied more harshly, leaving claimants to pay a much greater proportion of their weekly rent and rate bills.

It is understood that the new taper will be 70p in the pound — compared with the present combined 38p in the pound for rent and rates. The Cabinet wishes to phase this in over several months.

For the very poor — who at present have all their rates and rent paid by housing benefit — the new 70 per cent rate rule will reduce their benefit. They will also lose the help they receive towards water rate bills, which currently averages £120 a week.

The Cabinet decided to compromise over Treasury plans — passed to the Guardian last month — to make the unemployed pay 20 per cent of rents. It decided that benefit payments should only fund 80 per cent of rents, but local authorities are to top up the remaining 20 per cent.

The combined effect of the changes is that the very poorest will have to find an extra £150 a year to meet the average rate and water rate bill.

Mr Fowler is understood to want to publish the green paper, together with the housing benefit review, as soon as Parliament returns on June 3, after the Whitsun recess.



CHOPSTICK DIPLOMACY: PLO leader Yasser Arafat attends a banquet at the Great Hall of the People in Peking after talks with the Chinese leaders on the Palestinian issue

Thatcher in velvet gloves shows Scots will of iron

By James Naughtie, Chief Scottish Correspondent

The Prime Minister last night recognised the anxiety about her firm and the Government's performance by emphasising that a blend of humanity and determination was part of her realistic approach. But there was no sign of a shift in policy.

Mrs Thatcher faced a Scottish Conservative conference in Perth which has been restive over the Tories electoral weakness in Scotland and openly critical of the Government's style. She told them, in effect, that her toughness should not be mistaken for inflexibility.

She told the conference, still smarting over the rates issue that her approach would produce "one nation" — the traditional holy grail of the Tories — and tried to temper her resolution with a softer style. Her speech received a traditional standing ovation.

She said: "It is a time for cool heads — a time for keep-

ing calmly on a chosen course, not panicking the problems but looking them in the eye with determination — a time to reaffirm our vision, to go forward, confidently blending the new with the old."

It was a recognition of the Government's mid-term difficulty, but in her policy pronouncements there was no sign of a shift. The emphasis was

Corps increases Tory disquiet, page 2

on more privatisation and the reduction of unemployment by the growth of new businesses rather than public investment.

Mrs Thatcher's appeal to the party was to keep faith with "Thatcherism" and to assure them that it did not preclude a concern for the unemployed and the country's troubles.

Though there was, in the tone of the speech, an acknowledgment of the critics' demand for a new compassionate flavour in the Govern-

ment's style, there was nothing of substance which the party wets in Perth could grasp and cherish.

The words were carefully aimed at her critics. On Thursday evening Mr John Gummer, the party chairman, was in touch with Downing Street from Perth to pass on his observations — that morale was low and concern about the rates issue and general style of ministers was deep. The message was clear: reassurance was required.

The atmosphere traditionally conjured up for the Prime Minister's rallying speech was somewhat marred by an exchange of sharp words between the Chancellor, Mr Nigel Lawson, and the Scottish Secretary, Mr George Younger, over the £40 million relief agreed to help commercial rate payers hit hard by Scottish revaluation and cuts in rate support grant.

After a speech in which Mr

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Bombers kill 28 in new Sikh offensive

From Eric Silver and Ajay Bose in New Delhi

Bombs exploded in several North Indian cities, including New Delhi, last night, killing at least 28 people and injuring more than 70.

They were suspected to be the beginning of a new offensive by Sikh terrorists to disrupt efforts by the Government to end the three-year strife in Punjab.

In an organised onslaught extremists attacked trains and buses in Haryana, Uttar Pradesh, and New Delhi simultaneously, belying claims by the Government that Sikh terrorism had been crushed with the army operation in the Golden Temple last June.

Clamping maximum security measures in New Delhi and other cities and towns in North India, the army chief, General Vaidya, announced that "extremists are on the loose again."

The Prime Minister, Mr Gandhi, and President Singh have cancelled overseas trips scheduled this month. Mr Gandhi was in Moscow.

A bomb blasted an express train as it entered Meerut railway station, 50 miles from New Delhi, killing six people and wounding eight. In New Delhi, eight bombs exploded on a bus, in a shop, in the street, and in a rickshaw. Another bomb exploded in a bus station in neighbouring Haryana state, killing three people.

In Punjab, Sikh terrorists assassinated a leading Hindu politician in the district capital of Hoshiarpur, 62 miles east of Amritsar.

Another man was stabbed to death, and dozens of shops were set on fire, when a Hindu mob went on the rampage as news of the killing spread. The security forces imposed an indefinite curfew on the town, but had difficulty in bringing the protests under control. They arrested 35 rioters. This was the third murder of a Hindu politician in Punjab in 10 days.

Mr Bhair Singh, the president of the opposition Lok Dal party in Punjab, was shot by two men on a scooter as he was driving to his farm on the outskirts of Hoshiarpur. They escaped after firing automatic weapons.

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Next week

Monday

TOO MUCH TELLY
Why do we see so much American television? And why do the ITV companies keep bending the rules that they themselves have made to limit it? The Media Page considers the procession that runs from Kojak's New York to Dallas and back to Sesame Street.

PLUS POSY

I will NOT be cast as a heavy, Victorian father!... why'd you make me into a THREAT?



Tuesday

WAY OUT
Coming out is one thing, staying out is something entirely different. A reluctant lesbian talks to Guardian Women

THIRD DEGREE
Good planning thinks 10 years ahead, plans three years ahead and copes with now. That's the theory. In practice, what are we to expect from the Higher Education Green Paper? Education Guardian reports

Wednesday

BAD LOSERS
Super Bowl Sunday in America usually means a marked increase in the number of wife beatings. Guardian Women looks at a growing problem.

NEWS IN BRIEF

Heathrow setback

THE opening of the fourth Heathrow terminal has been put back until next year because of a row between British Airways and the British Airport authority. **Back page.**

Airport access

THE Home Office has confirmed that airline staff have regularly been allowed access to people detained by immigration officials at Heathrow in order to obtain fare money from them. **Back page.**

No case

THE judge hearing the case against three miners accused of murdering a taxi driver ruled yesterday that there was no case to answer against one of the men. **Page 3.**

Recriminations on kerb bill

RECRIMINATIONS against two Conservative MPs followed the collapse in a private member's bill intended to ban kerb-crawling. **Page 2.**

Exchange plan

A PALESTINIAN commando group will exchange three Israeli soldiers next week for 1,800 Palestinians and Lebanese held by Israel, according to Palestinian sources.

The Guardian

TECHNICAL production problems meant some shortfalls in supplies of the paper to some areas yesterday. We apologise for the inconvenience caused to readers.

The weather

MAINLY dry with sunny periods. Details, back page.

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THE GUARDIAN IN EUROPE

Austria	26 p/h	Germany	100 pf
Belgium	26 p/h	Holland	90 pf
Denmark	4.50 kr	Italy	2,000 li
France	150 fr	Spain	170 pf
West Germany	150 pf	Switzerland	2.50

A millionaire's lot is not a happy one

From Alex Brummer in Washington

Who wants to be a millionaire? "I don't," might be most people's response after reading a new study on America's almost one million millionaires, for whom the lustre of being wealthy seems to be wearing thin.

The study of America's millionaires by Dr Thomas Stanley, of the Georgia State University, has found that the traditional image of millionaires cavorting on the beaches of St Tropez, basking on the slopes of Aspen, driving their Cadillac or Rolls-Royce to the racetrack or simply chewing a good cigar, is far from reality.

America's average millionaire is more likely to have a life of drudgery. His watch will be a \$50 Seiko, rather than a \$1,000 Cartier, he wouldn't know a Picasso if he fell over it and he slaves away behind a counter until 6 pm each night — even on Saturdays, when the local baseball team is at home.

Professor Stanley, who says there are some 350,000 millionaires in the United States at present and that there will be one million by 1987, found that most of the country's rich are simply ordinary small businessmen running humdrum, hard lives. They are more likely to be found at their dry-

cleaning shops on a Saturday afternoon than on the tennis court, or drinking instant coffee at the counter rather than Pimm's around the pool.

Millionaires tend to work longer hours than ordinary people, carry a credit card from a down-market department store such as Sears, have long-lasting marriages rather than fancy girl friends or mistresses, and drive around in Ford or at best Volvo estate cars rather than a Ferrari or a Porsche. "These are the most traditional people in the world," said Dr Stanley.

If you want to meet a genuine American millionaire, or become one, it's best to go to

California, where there are 114,427 rather than to Vermont which has 1,031. Most of them are in the booming south of the country rather than on Fifth Avenue in New York or among the Boston Brahmins, according to the Georgia survey.

But if you are looking for financial advice from your millionaire, forget it. While millionaires are generally conservative about their affairs, putting money aside for their children's university education are seeking to ensure protection for their retirement — if they ever reach it, with their exhausting work schedule — they are often scatter-

brained about their finances. Many of America's modern millionaires apparently don't know how to balance their cheque book. One of their millionaires in Professor Stanley's study group admitted to leaving large sums of cash around the house because his wife had never been comfortable writing cheques.

While four out of 10 wives of millionaires work, their husbands generally prefer them not to be superstars. As a result of their 75-hour weeks, most millionaires are outlived by their wives. They generally sell off the day cleaning or hamburger franchise at below its worth and retire to Florida.

Head teachers warn Joseph of conflict

By John Fairhall, Education Editor

Head teachers who have so far kept out of the industrial action which is crippling schools in England and Wales yesterday hinted that they may take their own action if the Government maintains its tough line on teachers' pay.

After months of trying to keep the schools going during strikes by the two biggest teacher unions, the heads seem close to losing their patience with the uncompromising stand taken by the Education Secretary, Sir Keith Joseph.

In a terse statement yesterday, Mr David Hart, general secretary of the National Association of Head Teachers, Britain's biggest head teachers' group, warned of confrontation unless Sir Keith abandoned his "totally negative" attitude. "It is antagonising an increasing number of our members," he said.

Head teachers would be

most unlikely to strike, but if they chose not to increase their workload by struggling to keep the schools open many thousands more children could lose education.

Pupils taking vital public examinations would be sitting there in conditions of considerable disruption.

Until now the NART has kept out of the industrial action, much to the anger of the big unions, in the belief that a negotiated settlement was possible.

However, Sir Keith's latest insistence to the massed ranks of the local education authorities that the Government would not make any advance on the 4 per cent offer, that has been rejected by the teachers appears to have worn thin their moderate line.

Mr Hart said yesterday that all the unions were united in the conviction that teachers were grossly underpaid — the

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What are his chances of a happy retirement?

Almost half the people who die before they reach 75 do so as a result of heart disease.

Yet the factors that influence this may start in the cradle. Or even earlier.

That's why the British Heart Foundation is funding research work into this and all other aspects of heart disease.

But being a charity we rely totally on your support. Send off the coupon today and find out how you can help beat Britain's biggest killer.

(Figures taken from official Government statistics for 1982 on deaths under 75 in Britain)

We can't beat heart disease without you.

Please send me more information on the work of the BHF and details of how I can help.
Send this coupon to the British Heart Foundation,
102 Gloucester Place, London W1H 4BL.

Name: _____
Address: _____
Postcode: _____

British Heart Foundation
The heart research charity.

Reprimand as measure's passage to the Lords is blocked despite concessions to opponents

Tory MPs blamed for failure of kerb-crawling bill

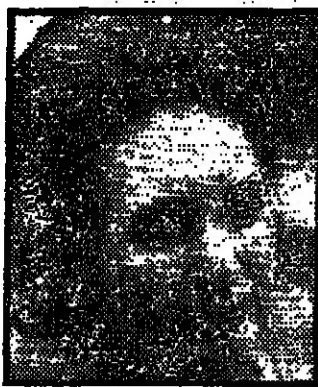
By David McKie,
Parliamentary Correspondent

A private members bill to ban kerb-crawling collapsed in the House of Commons yesterday amidst fierce reprimands against two Conservative MPs who, the bill's sponsor claimed, had destroyed it.

Miss Janet Fookes's Sexual Offences Bill, which would also have tightened penalties for indecent assault and attempted rape, was before the House for its report stage and third reading. End there being completed it would have gone on to the Lords with a fair chance of becoming law.

But the two Conservative backbenchers, Mr Matthew Parris (Derbyshire West) and Mr Tony Marlow (Northampton North), appeared intent on halting its progress.

Mr Parris—who spoke for 65 minutes on the first clause to come before the



Miss Janet Fookes—
"hurt and angry"

House yesterday—and Mr Marlow insisted on calling a division on the clause which was approved by 33 votes to 10.

When Mr Marlow then moved a further new clause it became clear that there was no

chance of the bill being completed before the debate was due to end at 2.30pm.

Miss Fookes told the House that her two colleagues had destroyed a modest bill which would have brought real relief to women and local residents who were being affronted and harassed by kerb-crawlers.

"There has been filibustering by my two honourable friends. This bill has been killed off, killed off by the action of my two honourable friends. I feel deeply hurt and very, very angry," she said.

A Labour sponsor of the bill, Mr Tom Cox, whose 20-year constituency includes the Bedford Hill area, long plagued by kerb-crawlers, drew a sharp distinction between Mr Parris's role and Mr Marlow's—a distinction echoed by Miss Fookes at a subsequent press conference.

Mr Parris had been openly opposed to the bill from the

start, had spoken against it on a second reading, had become a member of the standing committee and continued his opposition there.

But Mr Marlow who had come to yesterday's debate with no such involvement had, Mr Cox said, done a grave disservice to the House.

Mr Marlow made no response to the attack Mr Parris told the House that there was a real problem and new laws were needed to deal with it. But the job should be done by a Home Office bill dealing with all the problems of prostitution.

Mr Parris's continued opposition appeared to turn on a single word. He had asked Miss Fookes to make the bill apply only to "persistent" kerb-crawling. She refused, believing that it would water down essential protection offered by her bill.

Mr Marlow told the press

conference that had it been left to Miss Fookes, herself and the Labour side, the bill would have got its third reading. He was particularly distressed that "two unrepresentative opinions" should have finished it off.

He said that the main provisions of the bill, based on the recommendations of the Criminal Law Revision Committee, had strong Home Office support. But he saw no chance of the Government finding time to produce its own legislation on kerb-crawling next session, since the Home Office allocation of legislative time was already fully booked.

The provisions on increased penalties for assault and rape might, however, appear in a government criminal justice bill.

But Mr Marlow conceded later that a government bill would be a question for the Prime Minister and the Cabinet



Mr Matthew Parris—
65-minute speech

to decide. Mr Marlow attacked Mr Marlow and Mr Parris at the press conference.

He said that Mr Marlow had tabled an amendment which opposed the increased penalties for assault and rape—a move he found somewhat in-

consistent with Mr Marlow's usual political position. "Mr Marlow is a prominent member of the Tory law and order lobby."

Mr Parris's last word to the House had seemed more concerned with how prostitutes found their clients than with how the community could respond to kerb-crawling.

Mr Parris, who insisted that he did not want to kill the bill, said that Mr Marlow had been saying that his aim was to wreck or obstruct it. As a result he had received a great many letters, some of them abusive, and threats to put bricks through windows of his home in Wandsworth.

"My aim is to make the bill a fairer one so that we catch people who ought to be caught and do not put in danger people who ought not to be put in danger, either of arrest or of prosecution," he said.

Serps adds to rising Tory disquiet

By David McKie,
Parliamentary Correspondent

Some Conservative MPs were apprehensive yesterday that the Government is about to compound its electoral unpopularity by pushing ahead with measures to phase out state sickness-related pensions and to change the law on shop Sunday opening.

They believe that these moves will divide the party at Westminster, alienate traditional Conservative supporters and risk votes.

They put some blame on the Prime Minister's impetuosity and some on the failure of other ministers who, they believe, share their fears to caution her adequately.

Their misgivings add to the disquiet in the parliamentary party over unemployment, rating, reform and government policy presentation which has been described by the former chairman of the backbench Conservatives' 1982 Committee, Sir Edward du Cann, as "staggeringly inept."

The former Conservative Cabinet minister, Sir Ian Gilmour said in Cambridge on Thursday: "If instead of the necessary modifications, we are given intensification and extension of present policies, there is a great danger that a mid-term setback will be followed by an end of term disaster."

A survey of 200 Tory MPs by BBC's Newsnight programme found that 44 per cent favoured immediate policy changes on unemployment, but 56 per cent opposed such changes. The survey showed a huge endorsement for Sir Edward's criticism: 57.5 per cent agreed absolutely, 18 per cent generally agreed, but 24.5 per cent disagreed.

Among remedies, 59 per cent wanted the party to change its tone and communicate better, 15 per cent favoured replacing the party chairman, Mr John Gummer, 10.5 per cent wanted the cabinet reshuffled, and 8 per cent wanted the policies changed.

There was 94 per cent approval for Mr Fowler's proposed changes in the social security system, with 62.5 per cent favouring abolition of Serps. Only 3.5 per cent opted for cautious reform.

Backbenchers believe that Sir John could grow as MPs discover the proposals' full implications.

On Serps, they fear the Government will be left wide open to charges of breaking pledges to the electorate and the Commons.

They believe that opposition parties will be able to argue that private pension provision will mean many people getting less benefit at higher cost.

A backbench pensions specialist, Mr Robert McCrindle warned that ending Serps could seriously affect the industry by increasing national insurance contributions.

Other Conservative MPs are apprehensive that the Government may try to rush through fundamental changes in the social security system without adequate consultation.

The Commons is due to debate the Audit Report on shop hours on Monday. The Government's motion favours legislation in the next session to remove restrictions.

While more than 100 Conservative backbenchers signed an early day motion favouring swift action on shop opening laws others complained that Sunday opening was a matter of conscience requiring a free vote.

Mr Ivor Stambrook, MP for Orpington, said yesterday that about 30 other Conservative MPs were ready to vote against the Government.

"However I expect it will go through because the vast majority of Conservative MPs are afraid of risking their necks by voting against a three whip," Mr Stambrook said.

Home Office ministers had decided that Sunday trading should be allowed, against the wishes of most ordinary Conservative Party members, he said. "It demonstrates an arrogance of power from which certain Home Office ministers appear to be suffering."

The Liberal chief whip, Mr Alan Bell, called the Government's decision "a disgraceful attempt to make MPs put party politics before their religious convictions."

Labour amendment says only that any legislation should protect shopworkers' pay and conditions.

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Keep liquid gas out of flats above sixth floor, councils urged

By Stephen Cook

Some people who live in blocks of council flats could be prevented from using liquid gas containers, Mr Ian Gow, the Housing Minister, said yesterday.

The gas should not be used above the sixth floor in buildings made from large prefabricated panels and which have not been constructed to a high standard or specifically strengthened, he said in a parliamentary answer.

The use of liquefied petroleum gas has increased in council blocks where built-in heating systems are inadequate or expensive.

Mr Gow's warning coincided with the publication of a report by the Building Research Establishment on the structure of Ronan Point. Five people died when part of the tower block in the East End of London collapsed in 1968.

The report's main conclusion, that Ronan Point and some other TWA tower blocks do not have an adequate margin of safety against fires or explosions, was announced earlier this year. But Mr Gow said yesterday that some of the findings had implications for all types of large panel system buildings.

He made it clear that the

Government will not give councils money to help with repairs to homes built from large panel systems, of which there are about 140,000. In 1968, the Labour government paid for half of the £100 million strengthening programme after Ronan Point.

Local authorities should check whether these buildings, whatever the height, could withstand a standard static pressure of 3lb per square inch, said Mr Gow. If not, steps should be taken to ensure that liquid gas was not used above the sixth floor. Councils should consider strengthening the buildings or modifying or replacing heating systems.

The London borough of Newham, which owns the 22-storey Ronan Point, has decided to demolish it and five similar blocks. The council thinks that building new housing will be cheaper than repairing the latest defects, which came to light last year.

There are about 90 TWA high-rise blocks, mainly in London, Sheffield and Sunderland. Yesterday's report said that TWA buildings should be checked to make sure that the joints between panels can adequately resist the spread of fire and fumes.

A woman judge to make court history

By Malcolm Dean

THE COURT of Appeal is expected to get its first woman judge, Lord Hale, when she is appointed to the Bar that he wants to nominate a woman to one of the three vacancies on the 21-member court.

One of the vacancies on the court follows the retirement of Lord Justice Cumming-Bruce, who was promoted from the family division of the High Court, which leaves it open to the Lord Chancellor to nominate one of the three women members of the present family division to follow suit.

The best known is Dame Rose Heilbron, who in 1974 became the first woman to be appointed to the High Court. But Dame Rose is aged 70 and most barristers believe that if the Prime Minister is ready to approve the appointment of a woman it will be one of the two other members of the family division.

The next in seniority is Dame Margaret Booth, who was appointed to the High Court in 1978. For the past two years she has been chairwoman of a working party set up by the Lord Chancellor's Department to examine divorce court procedure. Her committee is about to produce its report and promotion would be one way of thanking her for her work on the committee.

The other woman judge, Dame Elizabeth Butler-Sloss, raises political problems to the extent that she is the sister of the present Attorney-General, Sir Michael Havers, and her promotion might be construed by some as political or family favouritism.

Dame Elizabeth, who is married to the crown court recorder Joseph Butler-Sloss, was the Conservative Parliamentary candidate for the London constituency of Lambeth, Vauxhall, in 1959. She was promoted to the High Court in 1979.

Dame Margaret and Dame Elizabeth are both aged 61. Lord Hale can only nominate. The Prime Minister has the final say. As a barrister herself, Mrs Thatcher may feel that she is sufficiently familiar with the Bar not to follow the Lord Chancellor's recommendations.



Fire caused £250,000 worth of damage to this train, travelling from London to Brighton early yesterday. Fifteen passengers fled from the flames after the train stopped at Burgess Hill, Sussex. Two coaches were gutted and a third was badly damaged. A man was later charged with arson and will appear in court at Haywards Heath on Monday.

BT workers head for clash on technology

By Patrick Wintour

THE 165,000-strong National Communications Union (NCU) is recommending a campaign of selective industrial action from September 1 within British Telecom in an attempt to persuade management to concede a radical cut in the working week. The recommendation is to be put to the union's annual conference next month and is likely to be accepted.

The union has adopted a "broad strategy designed to deal with a projected collapse in employment opportunities due to the spread of new technology within BT. In talks so far, BT has refused to make any concessions towards the NCU's claim for a 32-hour, four-day week. The present basic week is 37½ hours.

Mr Tony Young, chairman of the union's committee respon-

sible for the strategy, said yesterday: "Talks have reached stalemate and we now need something to concentrate BT's mind. British Telecom is one of the largest employers in the country and is at the forefront of new growth industries. Yet, in terms of new employment opportunities, we are providing virtually nothing. For instance, in London this year, only 32 apprentices are being taken on in an area that used to take on hundreds, if not thousands."

The NCU believes that the impact of more reliable equipment will lead to a massive cut in manpower unless there is also a reduced working week, longer holidays, and more flexible working time. BT has rejected the union's demands as commercially crippling.

Union play on GCHQ attacked

By Richard Norton-Taylor

Staff at GCHQ who are defying the ban on unions at the intelligence gathering centre reacted angrily yesterday to an attempt by Civil Service union leaders to offer the Government a compromise over the issue.

At a meeting on Thursday night with Sir Robert Armstrong, Cabinet Secretary and head of the home Civil Service, union leaders suggested that officials who have rejoined their union should pay back the £1,000 (less tax) they received when they handed in their cards last year.

The suggestion was made after Sir Robert said that the declaration signed by officials, agreeing to abide by the new conditions at GCHQ, was legally binding. GCHQ staff dispute this; they say that in any cases the declaration was signed under duress and that the money was compensation for loss of rights under the Employment Protection Acts and not for the loss of union membership.

Eleven officials have told management that they have rejoined their union and the Government has threatened three with disciplinary action. One of these, Mr Derek Vaughan, a radio operator at the GCHQ listening post near Scarborough, said yesterday that he bitterly opposed the suggestion put forward by union leaders.

He signed the declaration in the last hour before the Government's March 1, 1984 ultimatum was up. He rejoined his union after the High Court ruling—since overturned by the Appeal Court and the House of Lords—that the ban was illegal. The issue involved fundamental matters of principle, he said.

Similar views were expressed by other GCHQ "rebels."

Though Sir Robert is reported to have acknowledged that the Government was concerned about the festering problems at GCHQ, he insisted that it had not changed its position. Ministers are concerned about the prospect of a growing number of GCHQ officials rejoining their unions and that they may not know how many do so. Thirty-eight are believed to have rejoined so far and others have suggested that they will.

The Government is also concerned about the lack of support for the staff federation set up in place of unions. Only 1,632 staff have agreed to join, about 20 per cent of the total at GCHQ.

Printing by Shah group of strike-hit paper sets dilemma for journalists

By Patrick Wintour,
Labour Staff

Management at the Kent Messenger revealed yesterday that the strike-hit paper is being set and printed by Mr Eddie Shah's Messenger group newspapers in Warrington. Members of the National Union of Journalists had been attempting for two weeks to find out where the paper was being produced. Mr Shah's company is blocked by the NUJ.

The deputy general secretary of the NUJ, Mr Jake Ecclesstone, is to meet the Kent Messenger NUJ chapter on Monday and is likely to be under pressure to ask the chapel to strike. However, a strike over the use of Mr Shah's company could be deemed unlawful secondary strike action.

Mr Peter Eagley, the Kent Messenger's deputy group managing director, said last night: "The NUJ are not happy with the news of where we are being printed, but it's essential that we produce papers to produce the revenue to pay the staff."

The management has sacked 142 members of the National Graphical Association, the printers' union. They had struck over the introduction of computerised equipment to be used in the advertising and accounts department.

The NGA is asking the NUJ leadership to instruct its members not to cross picket lines at the Kent Messenger. The NUJ chapel has twice rejected strike action, but this was before any formal request from the NGA or news of Mr Shah's involvement.

Relations between the NUJ and the NGA have become increasingly strained. On Wednesday the NUJ executive decided by 11 to 9 votes not to back the majority of its members at the Warrington Express and Star willing to withdraw cooperation over the introduction of direct input technology. More than 60 members of the NGA have been sacked at the Star.

NGA anger over the NUJ's refusal, or inability, to support it in its dispute could lead the NGA to abandon talks between the two unions over a proposed demarcation agreement in the provincial press.

Steel's warning

By David McKie

The Liberal leader, Mr David Steel, warned his party yesterday against throwing away the electoral gains it has been making.

He said in Liberal News: "An overheated party council resolution, passed on wet Saturday afternoon in Scarborough or wherever—in Scotland and Wales also—can be used and abused by our opponents."

Mr Steel also counselled his party against lowering its sights and concentrating, as Liberals complain that the Social Democrats' leader Dr David Owen is doing, on holding the balance of power rather than forming an Alliance government.

The Alliance had started the last election campaign at 18 per cent in the polls and ended with 25 per cent. In 1979 the Liberals had begun at 8 per cent and achieved 14 per cent by polling day. Now the Alliance had 26 per cent and 33 to 35 per cent of the vote—a breakthrough—was not impossible.

Mr Steel said: "The Government take the rather foolish line that they have not been asked by BL for money for their engine development, and we know that not true."

"We know a corporate plan has gone in and there is a request for a major engine development."

"It would be monstrous if the Government pushed or permitted BL to fall further into the hands of Honda. Collaboration is one thing, capitulation quite another."

But he conceded that there were worrying signs about closer BL links with Honda, where both companies are already collaborating on a new car to replace the larger Rover executive models.

Speakers warned of the danger posed to BL from the Nissan car assembly plant, now emerging near Sunderland. Fears are growing that the already vulnerable Midlands components industry could suffer if Nissan encourages the development of component producers around the factory.

Rebuff for BL 'putting Midlands jobs at risk'

By Peter Hetherington,
Northern Labour Correspondent

Thousands of jobs in the Midlands car industry are threatened by the Government's refusal to approve BL's corporate plan, the shadow trade and industry secretary, Mr John Smith, said yesterday.

He told a conference in Birmingham on "challenging the industrial decline" that failure to approve a £250 million investment for a new engine development would force the state corporation further into the grasp of the Japanese motor company, Honda.

The engine is needed to replace the ageing "A" series in the Metro, or its successor at the end of the decade. Unions have warned that 5,000 jobs alone at Austin Rover's Longbridge plant in Birmingham will be lost if the project does not go ahead.

The West Midlands County Council, which organised yesterday's conference, has estimated that 11,760 jobs would be lost in all.

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Ministers find comfort in Lords defeat

By David McKie

Ministers believed yesterday that the Government's defeat in the Lords on waste disposal provisions in the Local Government Bill was not as serious as it might have looked.

The bill transfers control of waste disposal to the boroughs. The Lords rejected government advice on Thursday and deleted the appropriate clause, opening the way for amendment by Lord Cranbrook to set up new authorities to look

after waste disposal in London and the metropolitan counties.

The Opposition changed strategy to transfer a bank of additional responsibilities to the bodies which are to be set up for a five-year term in London and the metropolitan counties when the present councils are scrapped. If this strategy succeeded it could be argued that the life of these bodies would have to be extended, and that, given their new power and influence, they

ought to be directly elected.

The Opposition struck its first blow when it defeated the Government on an amendment transferring responsibility for road planning to the new residual bodies. The Labour peer Lady Birt moved an amendment which would give the bodies control of waste disposal.

However, she withdrew this amendment in favour of that from Lord Cranbrook who, as chairman of the House's select

committee on science and technology, which had strongly condemned the transfer of responsibility over waste disposal to the boroughs, was likely to command wider support.

The success of Lord Cranbrook's amendment rather than Lady Birt's came as a relative relief to the Government, since it did not further diminish the power of the residual bodies and strengthen the case for making them permanent and directly elected.

Race law riles police

By Stephen Cook

The new police disciplinary offence of racial discrimination, the policing of the miners' strike, and the representation of police interests in Parliament are likely to produce some of the liveliest debates at the annual conference of the Police Federation, which begins in Blackpool on Tuesday.

There is a series of motions hostile to the offence of racial discrimination, which was inserted by the House of Lords towards the end of the passage of the Police and Criminal Evidence Act. One motion suggests an appeal to the European Court of Human Rights in an attempt to have it revoked.

Motions from the Lancashire branch of the federation take up the controversy over the length of time Mr Eddon Griffiths, Conservative MP for Bury St Edmunds, has been parliamentary adviser to the federation. They suggest that there should be at least one adviser from each main party in the Commons and Lords.

Two motions put forward the idea of forming a civilian branch of the federation. Most civilian employees of the police service are represented by Nalco, and some of them were upset by that union's contributions to the miners' strike fund.

There is to be a general debate on the role of the police in industrial disputes, which is likely to centre on the miners' dispute.

Organist who captured the hearts of millions

OBITUARY

THE king of the mighty Wurliwurz, Mr Reginald Dixon, died yesterday in a Blackpool hospital at the age of 80.

Every day for 50 years until his retirement 15 years ago Mr Dixon took Blackpool Tower's monster organ throbber and quavering through thousands of requests. His signature tune, "Oh I do like to be beside the seaside," became famous to millions of radio listeners and holiday makers.

Reginald Dixon made more than 2,000 broadcasts during his years at the Tower. He became as well-known in the North as Grace Fields and George Formby.

Born in Sheffield, Reginald Dixon began his performing career as the organist in a local Methodist church at the age of 13.

He had always wanted to be a concert pianist, but as he explained: "It was when I tried to play Grieg that I realised I would never make the concert platform."

At 25 he was out of work and auditioned for the Blackpool Tower. The manager asked him what his qualifications were. He replied that he was an Associate of the Royal College of Music.



Reginald Dixon—
star of the Tower

Dixon's Wurliwurz as he busked his way through everything from Liszt's Hungarian Rhapsody to "It's My Mother's Birthday Today."

During the war he was a squadron leader in the RAF. In 1966 he was awarded the MBE.

This appreciation appeared in some London editions yesterday.

American actor EDMOND O'Brien, the American actor who won an Oscar for his performance in The Barefoot Contessa, has died after a long illness, aged 69. Appreciation, page 18.

Athletics chief

ADRIAN Paulen, the former president of the International Amateur Athletic Federation, died in Eindhoven on Thursday, aged 83. Appreciation, page 14.

سكس من المرحل

Miner is cleared of murdering taxi driver

TGWU may face court action to publish full vote

By Paul Hoyland

One of the three miners accused of murdering a taxi driver during the coal strike was cleared of the charge yesterday.

Mr Justice Mann told the jury at Cardiff Crown Court that Anthony Williams, aged 28, had no case to answer and that he would direct them later to return a not guilty verdict.

Williams, of Ty Coch, Rhymney, mid-Glamorgan, still faces two charges of conspiring to damage the taxi in which Mr David Wilkie, aged 35, died.

Two other miners, Reginald Dean Hancock and Russell Shankland, both aged 21 and

of Rhymney, have pleaded not guilty to murder.

The judge told the jury that they would be discharged from giving verdicts on conspiracy charges against the two. He made his rulings after hearing legal submissions.

The court heard yesterday that when police went to Williams' home 12 hours after Mr Wilkie's death he allegedly said: "Thank God for that. I have been wanting to talk to you since 8 am this morning. There were three of us. I tried to stop the others doing it. I have been worried sick all day. People have told me to sleep on it but I have been wanting to speak to you all day."

Mr Wilkie was killed when a concrete block and post hit his taxi as he drove with a police convoy under Rhymney Bridge, near Merthyr Tydfil. He was taking a working miner to Merthyr Vale colliery.

Williams allegedly told police that Shankland had called for him and they went to Hancock's house. "We were talking about what we were going to do. We were going to make our presence felt and cause a disturbance. We were going to interrupt the convoy."

"Russell and Dean got a concrete post. I would not help them and told them not to do it. One of them got a big block

near the bridge. They put the things on the bridge and we hid and they ran back and pushed them over the bridge."

"I did not go on the bridge. I stood by the side of it and we all ran together. I was frightened."

Williams had said in a written statement: "I told them that what they were going to do was going to hurt someone. I didn't want anything to do with it."

Detective Chief Superintendent Don Carsley, head of South Wales CID, had asked Williams: "Rumours are circulating that the men who dropped the blocks on the taxi had been given instructions to do so by members of a local

miners' lodge. Is this correct?"

Williams replied: "No. It just happened, as far as I am concerned. I can only tell you that I was called for by Shankland. We went to call for Hancock. They seemed to know what they were going to do."

Mr Carsley told the court that he had refused to allow Shankland to call a solicitor when he was being interviewed because it would have interfered with the inquiry. He denied telling Shankland that he would be jailed for 20 years.

The trial continues on Monday.

A striking miner who threw a stone through a window of a taxi carrying a prisoner to work

injuring the driver, had a three-month prison sentence reduced on appeal yesterday.

Raymond Liddington, aged 29, of Glydwr Street, Abertillery, Gwent, had been sentenced by Ebbw Vale magistrates for causing actual bodily harm to the driver, Mr Howard Crother. He was given seven days to run concurrently, for damaging the taxi which was going to Six Bells colliery.

Both sentences were suspended for two years by the Merthyr Tydfil Crown Court appeal hearing. Liddington, who has been sacked by the National Coal Board, was ordered to pay £200 compensation to the driver.

By Keith Harper, Labour Editor

Legal proceedings were threatened yesterday against the Transport and General Workers' Union by one of its members unless it publishes the branch voting returns for the election of its new general secretary in the ballot last year and in the re-ballot which starts on Monday.

The action is being sought by Mr Declan Hughes, a member of the union's agricultural section and the Kent Central branch. He said last night that he had authorised his solicitors to commence High Court proceedings against the TCGWU to require it to publish the results of each branch vote. "I also authorise them to seek any further relief which they may advise is necessary in order to ensure that the new election is conducted fairly and democratically, and in accordance with union rules."

Mr Hughes said he was making this last point because the new election was being held under the same rules and he did not think the system satisfactory. He would much prefer postal balloting or a system where the votes were counted by an independent agency, such as the Electoral Reform Society.

In another statement yesterday Mr Hughes' solicitors said that they had been instructed to write to Mr Moss Evans, the TCGWU general secretary, threatening such action. They were being advised to do so under rule 13, which said that the branch voting should be declared.

Mr Evans said last night that he understood that Mr Hughes was unlikely to go to court until Tuesday. In the meantime the union's legal secretary, Mr Albert Blythton, would be contacting him today.

"We are of the opinion on the basis of the interpretation of our rule that Mr Hughes' solicitors are incorrect," he said.

The union said yesterday that it was up to the scrutineers appointed by the TCGWU to decide if individual votes by each branch should be published.

Mr Hughes was among the first of several TCGWU members to write to Mr Evans last year to complain that the ballot in his branch had been conducted unfairly.

Kent Central members were advised that they had to go to the TCGWU's Maidstone office on one particular day to vote. Mr Hughes objected, and was later visited at his home by a union official with a ballot box. He refused to vote on the grounds that similar efforts should be made to contact every other branch member.

NCB attempts to avert Nacods overtime ban

By Patrick Wintour, Labour Staff

The National Coal Board moved yesterday to dissuade members of the pit deputies' union, Nacods, from backing their leadership's call for an overtime ban by repeating its claim that the colliery review procedure remained sacrosanct.

Balloting of the union's 16,000 members started yesterday, and a result is expected next week. An overtime ban by the deputies would cut production by around a fifth.

Mr Michael Eaton, the NCB's spokesman, said yesterday: "Every pit closure that has taken place since the end of the dispute has been the subject of discussion between ourselves and the various unions." The deputies are calling for the ban because they claim that the NCB is shutting pits without putting them through the old or the proposed modified review procedure.

Talks on the new procedure incorporating a new independent appeals body are to resume next Wednesday, with the unions and the NCB at loggerheads over the body's constitution.

Mr Eaton conceded that the board had sent letters to the three mining unions, telling them that pits damaged during the strike would be shut without going through the full procedure, but there had been debate between management and unions at local level, he said.

Mr Eaton's comments drew an angry response from Mr Peter McNestry, the Nacods national secretary. He said: "In several areas members of my union have sought discussions and failed to obtain them, for instance at Frances colliery, in Scotland."

He added that closures at Horden colliery, County Durham, Bates colliery, Northumberland, and Polkham colliery in Scotland had all occurred without full consultation.

Nacods is particularly angry that men are being transferred to other pits before the full procedure has been completed, and without the involvement of the unions at national level.

The NCB claims that the transfers are necessary because the pits are in such a bad state that no useful production can take place. In addition,



Mr Peter McNestry—talks refused

pressure from miners seeking voluntary redundancy is forcing the board to speed up transfers.

In advertisements in popular newspapers, Mr Merrick Spanton, board member for personnel, promises that the transfer of miners from a pit and the run-down of operations does not necessarily mean closure. He says that if local unions wish to contest a closure the NCB will not prevent the full review procedure being used.

Nacods has given up its battle against the closure of Bedwas colliery, South Wales, and has advised its members there to seek transfer or redundancy.

Tom Heath adds: Production at two South Wales collieries stopped yesterday after a walk-out over allegations that machinery at a coal washery had been sabotaged.

About 500 underground workers walked out at Cwm colliery near Bedwas, in mid-Glamorgan, after 120 men had been sent home while management investigated damage to a conveyor belt gear box. A metal nut was apparently put into the machinery.

Men at the adjacent Coedely pit were sent home because the coal they mine is wound up the Cwm shafts. By yesterday afternoon around 1,000 men were involved in the stoppage and Cwm was without safety cover.

The NCB said that the damaged gear box was the latest in a series of irregularities affecting production at Cwm.

Killer loses injury cash to crime victim fund

From Paul Johnson in Belfast

A £25,000 compensation award to a Northern Ireland prisoner has been withdrawn to offset money paid out by the Government to the family of the man he was convicted of murdering.

A judge at Newtownards County Court ruled yesterday that the award to Gary Smyth, a convicted IRA man, made after he lost an eye in a prison accident, should revert to the Northern Ireland Office.

The case, although not unique, is unusual because of the amount of money. It was brought under criminal injuries legislation which enables compensation to crime victims to be recouped from perpetrators' assets.

Last night, Smyth's wife, Donna, said she was disgusted: "We will be appealing until we get what is rightfully ours."

"They are being vindictive. We don't have much of a future, that was cut off by the judge has taken it from us."

Smyth, aged 25, was convicted in 1979 of murdering an RUC photographer, Millar McAllister, who was shot dead in Lisburn. Mr McAllister's widow was later awarded £35,000 Government compensation.

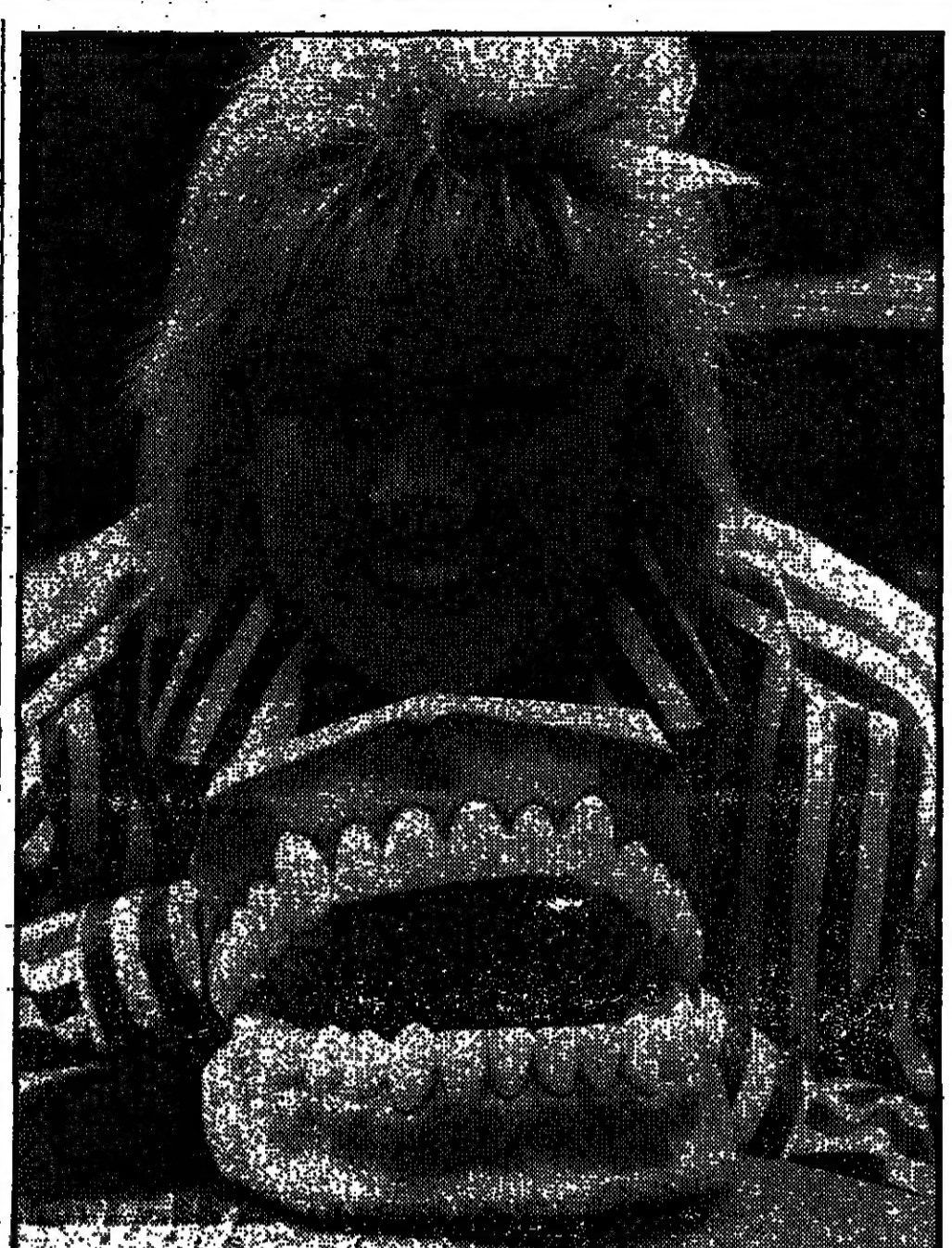
In 1980, while serving a life sentence at the Maze prison, Smyth lost his left eye when a wood splitter from a cutting machine hit him.

He successfully sued the Government for £25,000. That sum was frozen last month when the Northern Ireland Office made legal moves to recover it.

Smyth's counsel yesterday attempted to argue that his part in the murder was peripheral, but Judge Roy Watt ruled that the circumstances of the crime were not a matter for the county court.

Counsel for Smyth said he would come out of prison having lost his youth, penitence and disabled.

In his judgment, Judge Watt said any more compensation to Smyth for his lost eye could also revert to government funds to offset Mrs. McAllister's compensation.



All present and correct: Marilyn Cottingham has the perfect row of teeth to put some bite into the British Dental Health Foundation's national smile week, launched in London yesterday. Dentists hope to cut the pain threshold for patients with a touch of humour during the campaign, which starts on Monday

Hailsham doubts on prosecutions law

By Malcolm Deas

Lord Hailsham, the Lord Chancellor, admitted yesterday that he had doubts about the Government's decision to introduce a national prosecution service next year.

Speaking to the annual conference of the Justices' Clerks' Society in Brighton, he said he thought there were benefits in lawyers alternating between prosecution and defence work. It led to a more balanced style of advocacy and perhaps to a more balanced cast of mind.

However, the counter arguments which had persuaded the Government to implement the recommendation of the Royal Commission on Criminal Procedure were also strong, Lord Hailsham said.

There would be more accountability, consistency, and probably efficiency, in the new prosecution policy and another is to cut the number of unnecessary offices close to local courts. Decisions could still be influenced by local circumstances.

The Home Office yesterday

published a three-volume management study on the structure for the national prosecution service.

Publication was rushed through so that it will be available for MPs on Monday, when the Prosecution of Offences Bill, which sets up the service, is due to receive its third reading in the Commons.

The service will have more than 2,500 staff to handle a million prosecutions a year through 100 offices. It will begin in the six metropolitan areas next April and extend to the rest of the country in the autumn.

All prosecution decisions will be made independently of the police. The service will employ 1,800 lawyers to review the evidence which the police collect. One aim is to introduce a more uniform prosecution policy and another is to reduce the number of unnecessary prosecutions.

Prosecution policy will be devised by the Director of Public Prosecutions.

Gypsies 'facing pass law'

By Michael Parkin

A solicitor claimed yesterday that Bradford was trying to run 23 Gypsies out of town by means of a wide-ranging court injunction. The injunction being sought would stop them entering or remaining on council land or premises, or any other land or premises, without written permission.

Mr Alan Craig, who represented one of the Gypsies in a hearing in chambers before Mr Justice Taylor, said afterwards: "The metropolitan district council has asked for an order that would amount to a pass law to prevent the Gypsies coming into the Bradford area."

"I have never come across a case that has asked for such sweeping powers. It is the equivalent of building a legal fence around Bradford. Where do these Gypsies go? Many have been living in Bradford for 15 to 20 years." The hearing was adjourned to a date to be fixed.

Mr Craig said that usually sought to restrain the 23 travelling people from parking or occupying caravans or any other vehicles in Bradford without permission from the council. They would not be allowed to "defecate, urinate or deposit effluent of any nature on any land except in a properly built and functioning water closet or urinal."

Mr Craig said that usually Gypsies did not contest proceedings to evict them from a particular piece of land. This time eight of the 23 had gone to court, or were represented, to fight the application.

He added: "If this injunction is granted and the Gypsies go back, they would become liable to imprisonment for contempt of court. We have asked the Secretary of State to intervene and to require the council to provide more sites for Gypsies."

Murder remand

Stanley Abel, a 76-year-old retired Pentecostal minister, was remanded in custody at Glasgow sheriff court yesterday accused of murdering his wife at their home in Balcarres Avenue, Kelvindale, Glasgow.

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THE FUTURE?

Cliff Michelmore talks with Sir George Jefferson, Chairman, British Telecom.

ITV SUNDAY MAY 12th 12:57 pm

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British TELECOM

Chancellor warns Scots: £40m 'generosity' will not be repeated

Younger and Lawson clash over rates aid



Nigel Lawson
—outlook harsher



George Younger
—opening shot

don't think he (Mr Younger) will find me in the same camp as the open-ended and open-ended next time.

When Mr Younger heard of this he said: "It's a typical Tory opening gambit. He wants to put me in a push-over position."

During yesterday's conference Mr Younger also spoke of the need for a system of rates which will be published next week.

He said: "When all the crit-

ics start their special pleading, ask yourselves these questions. Can we afford a system with open-ended commitment, and commitments quite unrelated to the performance of the economy and the creation of wealth?

"Can we afford a system which encourages idleness and irresponsibility and discourages initiative and enterprise? And can we do justice to the really needy if we extend benefit to those well able to look after themselves?"

Brittan defends BBC in bias row

By Jean Stand

The Home Secretary, Mr Leon Brittan, yesterday stepped into the row between Scottish Tories and BBC Scotland to defend the independence of broadcasters.

The Tories have accused BBC Scotland of being persistently biased against them, particularly during a recent phone-in programme about rates.

The BBC responded by offering not to cover the Tory conference at Perth, which ended yesterday.

BBC cameras were there for Mr Brittan's speech, in which he warned that with such a powerful medium, it was not difficult to imagine what could happen if broadcasters fell into extremist hands.

"Although we must remain free to condemn excesses where they occur, and be alert to any need to strengthen the means of preventing them, we would be very foolish to increase the influence of this state and destroy the tradition of unique independent public service broadcasting we have established in this country."

It is not the task of government to censor individual programmes or to pick and choose what people see or listen to.

He did not mean that broadcasters should be the sole judge and jury of programme standards, he said. The public were their customers and it was vital that broadcasters were made fully aware of viewers' and listeners' reactions.

On Tuesday, the Home Secretary said: "Let us not ignore some of the advantages of the licence fee system. It has protected the BBC from the kind of direct interference from government of which we are right as a nation to be fearful."

Referring to the Peacock Committee's examination of alternative BBC financing, such as advertising, Mr Brittan said people must be prepared to consider change.

Mr Brittan said that a £50 licence fee had not forced out the BBC or imposed a government view on what services to provide but ensured that any improvement "cannot be bought at the expense of the licence payer, but has to be earned by greater productivity."

The BBC must plan on the assumption that the licence fee would be unchanged for three years.

Mr Brittan was replying for the Government in the debate on Home Affairs.

The conference overwhelmingly backed a resolution asking the Government to give "priority consideration" to public broadcasting funding and standards.

After his speech Mr Brittan disclosed that the Government was involved in talks with BBC executives, the banks and the Post Office on plans for a new instalment scheme for television licences.



The Archbishop of Canterbury, Dr Robert Runcie, greets the Most Rev. Antony, Metropolitan of Leningrad and Novgorod, at Lambeth Palace during his visit to London for the Westminster Abbey VE Day service. Picture by Frank Martin

London rates revolt set to crumble

By David Rose

The illegal "no-rate" policy still being followed by six rate-capped London Labour councils seemed about to crumble yesterday after a meeting of the London Labour executive had been told by four of the councils that they would set a rate next week.

This will leave only Hackney and Islington still refusing to fix rates. Their members, should they prolong their defiance, will become the sole bearers of the consequences — personal bankruptcy and disqualification from public office — of a tactic originally supposed to have been followed by all 18 rate-capped Labour councils.

The meeting of the London executive, held at County Hall on Thursday night, issued a resolution for public consumption which reaffirmed its standing in the continuing fight of all six councils. However, the trade union representatives present and some other members opposed the resolution.

The resolution stated that for any of the six councils to set a rate would "undermine the credibility of future campaigns." The actions of those councils which had already set rates, starting with the Greater London Council in March, were deplored.

The executive maintained that continued defiance by even one council "could still stimulate a mass movement against the Tory attacks," but it urged that "no one council be left isolated."

Earlier, however, the meeting had heard reports from each of the councils indicating that isolation for Hackney and Islington is now the most likely outcome.

Pressure from the Audit Commission, which is sending letters to individual councillors warning them of the imminent danger of personal surcharge, coupled with the political realities of the size and composition of Labour majorities, meant that holding out was no longer an attainable objective for the other councils: Lambeth, Southwark, Camden and Greenwich.

These councils are all holding rate meetings next week. Their leaders, including Mr Ted Knight of Lambeth, the original architect of the no-rate policy, said that even if legal rates were not fixed they would be shortly afterwards.

An immediate threat of surcharge as early as next Monday appears now to have been averted. On that day the first instalment of the rate precept from the boroughs to the Greater London Council and the Inner London Education Authority becomes due, and if it were not paid individual councillors would be liable for interest on the money.

The six rebel councils have delayed payment, but County Hall sources were saying last night that they had received assurances.

This casts doubt on another section of the executive's resolution, which called on the GLC and GLC to waive the interest and to waive the precept deadline. Such a course was, however, politically unrealistic as the GLC would then have been liable for the interest and there is no majority on the GLC for incurring surcharges.

Radical Tory Scots will make CND their primary target

The Tory Party headquarters, after some agonising, has decided to support rather than oppose the new group. It is based primarily in Glasgow and aimed at what is seen as the complacency of the Edinburgh administration of the Scottish Tories. Sir James Gold (sic) chairman of the Scottish Tory Party, has offered Mr Lawson facilities for the group at the Edinburgh headquarters.

The main aim of the CNDP will be to get across the message of Tory policies to voters who do not have a Tory MP, particularly in the Strathclyde region, which accounts for half the population of Scotland.

The main speaker at the meeting was Mrs Anna McCurley, MP for Renfrew West and Inverclyde. She has given her support to the group, on the grounds that the party needs a new initiative to win more support in Scotland.

Mr Lloyd Beat, chief of staff, said: " Thatcherism is based on the freedom of the individual and is in tune with British values. This group is something that we need and it is a constructive move."

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Three contest ballot to succeed Basnett

By Keith Harper

Mr John Edmonds, a national official of the General, Municipal and Boilermakers' Union, emerged yesterday as the front runner to succeed Mr David Basnett, as general secretary of the union, Britain's third largest.

Nominations closed yesterday and no official announcement was made about which candidates the 2,900 branches had decided to support. But unofficial soundings within the union show that Mr Edmonds, its public services national officer, has probably secured between 500 and 550 branch nominations.

The other two main candidates are Mr Tom Burlison, the northern regional secretary, and Mr David Warburton, the national chemicals officer. The indications are that Mr Burlison has secured between 400 and 450 nominations and Mr Warburton has 200.

Nominations figures are important in the GMBU because its voting is based on the branch block vote electoral system. The votes of an entire branch, however large or small, are cast for one candidate once a meeting has taken a majority decision on who to support.

After a larger share of nominations will not necessarily help Mr Edmonds because the size rather than the number of branches is the crucial factor. Another set of unofficial figures circulating in the union



Mr John Edmonds:
clear lead

last night indicated that Mr Edmonds and Mr Warburton were much closer. These showed that while Mr Edmonds had obtained 321 branch nominations, they accounted for only 131,000 votes. Mr Warburton had secured 104 branches with 118,000 votes.

A dispute about shares might develop into a public argument, which the union's leadership wants to avoid at all costs, given the future surrounding the Transport and General Workers' Union ballot for general secretary. The GMBU may bow to pressure and announce how many nominations each candidate has obtained, coupled with the potential vote this would give him.

South African on the run faces deportation

A man who escaped from South Africa's top security prison was sentenced to nine years in a British gaol and recommended for deportation yesterday, even though he claimed that he faced the death sentence in his home country.

A white South African, Alan George Heyl, aged 38, of Basingstoke, escaped from the top security prison near Pretoria while serving 15 years for armed robbery, Winchester Crown Court heard. He pleaded guilty to robbery, possession of an imitation gun, and to using the gun to avoid arrest.

Mr Stephen Parish, prosecuting, said Heyl assumed the name of Phillip John Ball. He had taken a leaf out of the story, The Day After Tomorrow, when he saw Ball's name on a gravestone at Bromley, Kent. He succeeded in getting a passport in the dead man's name and in adopting his identity.

Mr Parish said that Heyl and an accomplice held up the Securicor guard collecting money from shops in Basingstoke on February 8.

They escaped with £1,800, threatening to shoot their pursuers. Eleven days later Heyl

was arrested at Wallington, Surrey, but his accomplice had fled the country, taking most of the loot — £1,100.

Mr Parish said that after his arrest Heyl told police that he became politically motivated with a hatred for the South African security police after they had taken away his coloured girlfriend. He claimed that she was beaten up and had a miscarriage and he had failed to find her. He took part in a series of robberies to help finance an underground organisation, but he was caught and sentenced to six years imprisonment.

Heyl claimed that in 1980 he was convicted for five more armed robberies and sentenced to 15 years. Heyl said that two former inmates organised a break-out and, using a forged German passport, he flew to Britain.

Heyl told police that after adopting Phillip Ball's identity he fled later to the Greek islands, where he met an English woman whom he hoped to marry.

Heyl said that on returning to Britain to try to realise some £40,000 in assets, he became the victim of a blackmail and it was to pay him off that he committed the Hampshire robbery.

Art rescue fails to raise price

By Donald Wintersgill
Arts Sales Correspondent

A RESCUE consortium formed to return one of Germany's greatest art treasures, a 12th century book of the gospels, to the country, has failed to raise the auction price of £3,140,000.

The gospels book, which is illustrated with 41 full page miniature paintings, was sold at Sotheby's in London in December 1983.

The consortium was led by Hermann Abs, honorary president of the Deutsche Bank, who organised a successful rescue of many German treasures which came up at Sotheby's in 1978.

There was concern that the immensely rich Getty Museum in Malibu would bid for the work, but it was announced after the sale that it had deliberately refrained from bidding because the gospels were so important to Germany.

The consortium raised the money in a loan from the State Savings Bank of Hannover. Sotheby's and the anonymous seller were immediately paid and the book went to Germany, but the fundraising ran into trouble.

Raising the money also ran into regional rivalries within Germany.

The book of the gospels was commissioned by Henry the Lion, Duke of Saxony, Count of Brunswick, founder of Munich, and owner of vast estates across Europe.

It was presented by Henry the Lion to Brunswick Cathedral but in the 14th century went to Prague Cathedral and stayed out of Germany until it was bought at Sotheby's.

There is a no risk that the Germans will allow the book to leave again, even if the money has not been raised, to repay the bank.

In the 1930s the gospels were owned by Prince Ernst August of Hannover but some time after 1949 the prince disposed of it. He may have bequeathed it on his death in 1953 to his family.

Police car in death crash on way to chase

By Our Correspondent

West Mercia police said yesterday that the force laid down strict guidelines for patrol car drivers speeding to answer urgent calls.

Chief Constable Drew, assistant chief constable (operational) was speaking after the death of a man who was seriously injured in a crash late on Thursday.

Mr Steven Morris, aged 28, was a passenger in a private car involved in a collision with a police Rover on its way to join a high-speed chase on the M5 motorway.

Mr Drew said that an investigation had begun and a report would be sent to the Director of Public Prosecutions.

He said: "Firm guidelines are laid down by the force in relation to police response to urgent calls."

"But in the final analysis it is a matter for the police driver concerned to exercise his discretion and judgment in the light of the urgency of the particular situation."

The police car driver, Constable Paul Arnold, was unhurt. He was travelling to join two other police vehicles chasing a stolen car, the driver of which was yesterday being interviewed by detectives.

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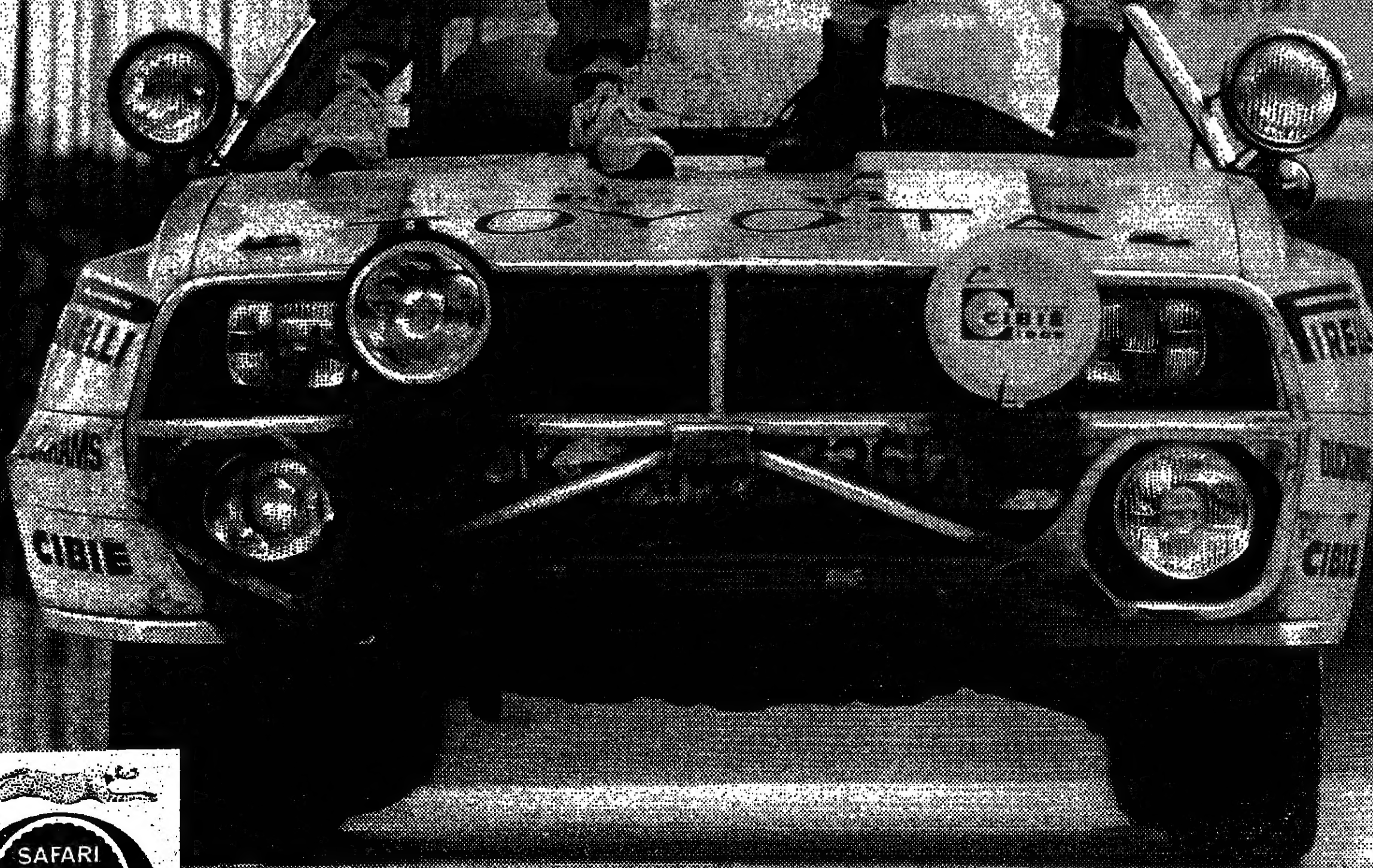
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TOYOTA

Bitburg could help attack on SPD stronghold

Ruhr elections will deliver verdict on Kohl's stewardship

From Dan van der Vat in Dortmund

After a barren economic summit and President Reagan's highly controversial state visit, West Germans vote tomorrow in a regional election which is bound to be read as a verdict on the Chancellor, Dr Helmut Kohl, and his Federal Government.

Voters in the largest federal state, North Rhine-Westphalia, who make up nearly a third of the national electorate, will be choosing a new State Parliament just after the half-way mark in Dr Kohl's term of office.

Although lip service is paid to the principle that state elections are about state rather than federal issues, the last stages of the campaign have concentrated on personalities and national issues, with local problems generally in third place.

In their last big advertising push, Dr Kohl's Christian Democrats (CDU), who form the Opposition in the Düsseldorf state legislature, claimed an unqualified success for the Reagan visit, including Bitburg and Belsen. The theme was: "German-American friendship has proved itself."

The underlying message is that the Social Democrats (SPD), defending an absolute majority in the state, would break the US connection. Since the state legislature has as much say in foreign affairs as the GLC, this is rather like accusing

Mr Ken Livingstone of wanting to take Greater London into the Warsaw Pact.

But the difference is that older voters here do see a link between the future of their state and the standing and security of their country. There are as many who admire Dr Kohl for withstanding the barrage of criticism over the SS graves at Bitburg as there are for suggesting the idea in the first place, and then sticking to it.

Here in the heart of the Ruhr, with its smoke-stacked industries, and associated problems—unemployment and pollution—stands the strongest fortress of the SPD, and no one doubts that it will again emerge as the largest party in the state. With opinion polls predicting an absolute majority again, as in 1980, the party's main concern is to mobilise its vote to the full.

As often happens in West Germany, the fate of the minority parties could determine the outcome of the election. Neither the Liberal FDP nor the anti-nuclear, environmentalist Greens got the minimum five per cent of the vote needed to enter Parliament five years ago.

The CDU's only hope of taking over from the SPD is that the FDP will surmount this hurdle so that together they can muster enough seats to force the SPD into opposition. The Greens, who have shown

signs nationally of running out of steam, are staking their all on holding the balance of power between the SPD and the CDU—without the FDP—so that they impose their will on the SPD if it fails to get an absolute majority.

Opinion polls offer little guidance here because their margin of error is too large. Either or each, or neither, of the smaller parties could get in; the only certainty is that the credibility and future prospects of both largely depend on doing so.

It is to the SPD's advantage that its state Prime Minister, Mr Johannes Rau, is a much more credible politician than his CDU challenger, Dr Bernhard Worms. If Mr Rau wins again, he could have a bright future in federal politics.

Dr Worms is very touch Dr Kohl's man and has been unkindly nicknamed "mini-Kohl" by his critics. To dismiss his chances, however, would be to deny the incontrovertible evidence that the Kohl approach to electioneering is amazingly effective.

Dr Kohl's, the whole political life of Dr Worms has been an endless election campaign in which stamina and stubbornness count for far more than policy and personality. Like Reagan, he is the silent majority made flesh. For them and their supporters, Bitburg and Belsen may be German, but they are not germane.



Reagan ponders on the bridge-building trip that served only to widen the gulf

From Alex Brummer in Washington

PRESIDENT Reagan arrived back on American soil yesterday to some of the most dispiriting reviews of his presidency. The 10-day trip, intended to stress the close bonds of freedom, security and democracy across the Atlantic, was both a policy and a public relations failure. As one senior White House official acknowledged, the President "never scored a home run."

Instead of narrowing differences within the alliance on a range of issues from Central America to economic management, Mr Reagan and his handlers seemed at a stroke to emphasise the gulf across the Atlantic. On this European trip there was no heroic image from the beaches of Normandy, no escape to the pubs of Ireland or a well received speech to Westminster on the network news.

In contrast, there were awkward scenes from Bitburg, ugly demonstrations in Madrid and hecklers and technical hitches in Strasbourg. While this ragged procession was making its way through Europe, Congress was active taking Mr Reagan's precious budget compromise apart piece by piece until the President was forced, while still in Lisbon, to accept a freeze on military spending.

We are about to have another crippled president, in the eyes of many, Mr Robert Hunter, a senior National Security Council official from 1977 to 1981. Mr Hunter, who is now European director of the Centre for International and Strategic Studies at Georgetown University, was disturbed by Bitburg and puzzled by the President's

centrepiece address at the remains of an even harsher original draft produced by the hawkish White House communications director, Mr Pat Buchanan.

The result, as at Annapolis seven years earlier, was a mixed message. Moscow and a rough response from a European audience who in the spirit of V-E day may well have been moved by some greater gesture of reconciliation to the former wartime ally in the east. It was as if the peace-loving post-election Reagan of January had given way in part to the cold-war warrior of old.

The clashing tones and responses to the Strasbourg address illustrated the difficulty the President had from Bonn to Lisbon in striking themes which would satisfy both domestic and European audiences. The announcement of Nicaraguan economic sanctions while on West German soil is a case in point.

The plain reason for making the announcement while in West Germany was to provide a diversion to blanket coverage of Bitburg in the American press. From the US domestic point of view it worked. Despite some initial reservations from Liberal Democrats, it was supported by the Democratic leadership (which felt duped by Daniel Ortega's trip to the Eastern bloc) and Republicans.

Indeed, a consensus began to develop on funneling some funds to the Contras. But in Europe, the move appeared to symbolise the worst in America's policy towards Third World countries. It produced a rebuff from the big seven foreign ministers and added fuel to the later anti-Americanism in West Germany, Madrid and Strasbourg. This relayed back

Divided Church awaits the Pope

From Derek Brown in Amsterdam

The Pope flies into the Netherlands today for the 24th and most difficult foreign visit of his pontificate.

He is assured of a warm welcome from the Dutch Roman Catholic hierarchy. But among the six million Catholic laity—some 40 per cent of the population—the visit has stirred deep controversy.

The Church in the Netherlands is profoundly divided between a vocal liberal wing and the traditionalists, headed by bishops appointed by Rome. Their disputes centre on the role of women in the Church, the ability of the clergy to marry, and the strict interpretation of Catholic dogma on family life, including mixed marriages, contraception, and abortion.

Two events this week have underlined the fundamental rift in the once placid Dutch Church. One was an opinion poll showing a clear majority of Catholics questioning the official line. The other was an impressive rally in The Hague of Catholics opposed, not to the Pope, but to the strict teachings he represents.

Nearly 10,000 people attended the rally, organised by an ad hoc group called PIP (Platform Initiative for the Pope's visit), under the slogan "We are the face of the Church."

Prominent theologians made repeated calls for the Pope to listen, rather than preach, to the Dutch laity. But PIP leaders realise that it is a forlorn hope, and that the Pope, safely surrounded by loyal bishops, is unlikely to hear much of their radical pleading, let alone bend towards the scepticism of Dutch laymen about the visit. It showed that only 11 per cent believed

the visit would bring Catholics closer together. No less than 64 per cent believed it would either increase divisions in the Church or leave the present divisions untouched.

The poll, conducted by the Catholic television station here, revealed a less than hearty mood of welcome. Only 53 per cent of Catholics (35 per cent of the population as a whole) said the Pope was welcome, or very welcome. In Holland,

Equally disturbing for loyalists were the poll's findings on Church teaching. Among Catholics, 58 per cent disagree with the official line against contraception, 63 per cent disagree with the ban on women priests, and only 38 per cent agree with the Church on sex outside marriage.

The rebellion of the laity against Church teaching has spread widely among Dutch clergy. No fewer than 2,500 priests have left holy orders in the past few years, mostly to get married.

Only a tiny minority, backed by anarchists and other fringe groups, are planning street protests. Demonstrations are expected today and tomorrow, when the Pope will be in Utrecht.

All police leave has been cancelled, and there is expected to be a tight security cordon around the Pope when he lands at Eindhoven this afternoon.

But widely publicised death threats against the Pope are known to have been the work of black bumsters along the large quaterly station of Amsterdam, who put up posters offering 15,000 guilders reward to the successful assassin. Four unfortunates have been arrested for posting the notices and accused of conspiring to stage a fiery head of state. If the charge sticks, which is thought unlikely, they face 15 years' imprisonment.

12 die in pool collapse

USTER, Switzerland: Twelve people, including children, died when a concrete ceiling crashed on bathers at a swimming pool, the mayor of Uster said yesterday.

Four of the dead were members of the Swiss national junior swimming team, Swiss television reported yesterday. The ceiling collapsed almost in one piece, and covered the pool like a lid. Only the diving board was there as an escape route for the few who struggled to safety.

Most of the victims drowned, but some were crushed to death by the concrete slab weighing about 160 tonnes, the mayor, Mr Walter Flach, told a news conference.

Some 350 rescuers worked through the night, breaking through the concrete with drills and pumping out water. Mr Flach said that no survivors were found beneath the fallen ceiling.

Mr Ernst Wädenswiler, who led the construction of the pool in 1971, said that the chrome-nickel steel alloy supports carrying the square yard ceiling had rusted.

"I cannot explain that. It should not happen," he told the news conference.

Barbie 'not troubled'

LYONS: The accused Nazi war criminal, Klaus Barbie, appears to have a clear conscience regarding his activities as Gestapo chief in Lyons, according to psychiatric reports published yesterday.

Barbie, aged 71, known as the "Butcher of Lyons," is awaiting trial on charges of deporting hundreds of people to death camps.

"Every time he encounters something that could create internal conflict, Barbie refers himself to an imaginary authority—that is one of the reasons why Nazi ideology worked so well for him," the report says.

Barbie, who was arrested in Lyons in 1973, is being held in a psychiatric hospital in Uster, near Zurich.

Threat of strike in Honduras

From Paul Glickman in Tegucigalpa

Honduras is threatened with a general strike after three weeks of Labour-sponsored talks aimed at resolving the country's constitutional crisis ended in failure early on Friday morning.

After a 16-hour negotiating session with the warring political factions, including a half-dozen abducted in the past two weeks. Also since January, the army calculated, 32 towns have been sacked or burned by guerrillas, mostly in rural areas of longstanding guerrilla strength in the eastern provinces of La Unión, San Miguel, Morazan, and Usulután.

Guerrillas of the Farabundo Martí Liberation Front, the rebel umbrella organisation, have frequently taken over small towns and destroyed government installations or records in their five-year-old war. But the Salvadoran army and diplomatic sources described the capture and killing of mayors as a departure for the involvement in which has traditionally sought to gain the broadest possible support among the population.

On Wednesday, Dr Janis Gallitis, eminent physician to the super-rich of nearby Newport, where lies the Von Bulow country mansion—had revealed in the jury's absence that he had been very unhappy with the way the original prosecutors had stage managed his evidence in 1982.

low wanted his share of her Mrs Von Bulow remains, as she has done since Christmas, 1980, in an irreversible coma in a New York hospital, also under guard, at a cost of

Salvador guerrillas turn on villagers

From Edward Cody in San Salvador

Leftwing guerrilla forces, in the face of a deteriorating military position, have sharply increased attacks on civilian authorities in small towns and villages of eastern El Salvador, the Government said.

The Salvadoran army reported that 10 mayors had been kidnapped and two killed by insurgents since the beginning of the year, including a half-dozen abducted in the past two weeks. Also since January, the army calculated, 32 towns have been sacked or burned by guerrillas, mostly in rural areas of longstanding guerrilla strength in the eastern provinces of La Unión, San Miguel, Morazan, and Usulután.

Guerrillas of the Farabundo Martí Liberation Front, the rebel umbrella organisation, have frequently taken over small towns and destroyed government installations or records in their five-year-old war. But the Salvadoran army and diplomatic sources described the capture and killing of mayors as a departure for the involvement in which has traditionally sought to gain the broadest possible support among the population.

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Major Carlos Aviles, the army spokesman, said that the recent attacks against mayors reflect inability by the guerrillas to confront the army directly. His comments fit a pattern of increased confidence in the Salvadoran army and its US advisers that leftist guerrilla forces have been doing poorly on the battlefield for the past year.

The Defence Minister, General Carlos Eugenio Vides Casanueva, said on Tuesday that the armed forces, strengthened by large doses of US aid, are now heading "irreversibly" for victory in the civil war.

Major Aviles and other Salvadoran sources speculated that the recent guerrilla attacks on mayors may also be aimed at preventing consolidation of civilian authority at the village level under the administration of President Duarte.

Mr Duarte, a US-backed Christian Democrat, was elected a year ago.

A diplomatic observer said that the attacks on mayors could be part of the new political emphasis, seeking to prevent the appearance of a functioning elected government in the rural areas of traditional guerrilla strength. — Washington Post.

Million homeless in floods

From Jan Rocha in Sao Paulo

A MILLION people are now homeless because of floods that have devastated Brazil's drought-prone north-east region. Another 20,000 lost their homes when a dam burst near Salvador, in the state of Bahia. Alerted by cracks in the dam wall, civil defence teams just had time to remove the population before the disaster.

The floods have been caused by exceptionally heavy rainfall in the area, where it has been raining for nearly two months.

The slow rise of the water has usually allowed the population to escape in time, but some have been drowned in overturned boats or in shacks swept away by mudslides.

Helicopters of the air force and hydro electric companies have rescued hundreds of people trapped on rooftops. One pilot, Antonio Dias Neto, told of rescuing a mother holding her newborn twins above her head to keep them out of the water.

In private, Mrs Reynolds, who was not around last time, has become his most spirited advocate. The defence is apparently determined to win the medical arguments this time—and to spend what it takes.

The sub-plot is the relocation of the trial in Providence, up the estuary from nautical Newport, which has also lost some off-season tourism. A local politician who just happened to be chairman of the Newport Tourist Board tried to legislate to get it back, and harsh words have been exchanged between the two towns.

One of Newport's losses is the sight of Mr Von Bulow keeping his spirits up by putting a napkin and ashtray on his head and giving a reportedly excellent imitation of Queen Victoria.

Time for talking, says Reagan

From Paul Keel and agencies in Lisbon

President Reagan said yesterday it was time thus to and the Soviet leader, Mr Mikhail Gorbachev, started talking to each other instead of about each other," and he warned that the US might have to breach the 1979 strategic arms limitation treaty, Salt II.

He told reporters before leaving Lisbon after his West European tour that he did not know if Mr Gorbachev would go to the United Nations session in the autumn. "The word 'probably' might be the best way to describe it," he said.

He added that if the Soviet leader did go, "the door was open for a meeting between us."

He said: "I extended an invitation that if he was going to be here, the door was open for a meeting between us. And that still goes. So the ball is in his court. First to decide whether he's coming here and then, second, as to time and place for such a meeting, if he is willing."

The two had a lot to talk about, he said.

Mr Reagan said there was considerable evidence that the Soviet Union had not abided by the Salt II with One US which set bomber and missile limits. "If that has been so, there is no need for us to continue," he added.

Weapons developed by the US so far had not violated the treaty, still unratified, but this could happen, he said.

President Reagan, who returned home satisfied rather than triumphant after his 10-day tour, said the trip had strengthened Atlantic ties.

The exercise had been long, historic and worthwhile. But he acknowledged that there had been "anguishing" moments.

This was a clear reference to his controversial Bitburg visit in West Germany and his attempt to redress the balance by visiting Belsen.

There were also hostile demonstrations in Spain, over NATO membership, and over the Central American policies.

But in his final comments, the President stressed assurances he had given to European leaders that they could count on the US.

"We are leaving strengthened and we are returning home mission accomplished," he said.

● Soviet commentators yesterday dismissed the Reagan tour as a "major blunder" and said his statements on East-West relations during it held out little hope of a speedy improvement of ties with Washington.

"A rapid and sharp turn for the better in international affairs should not be expected," the Soviet foreign minister, Nikolai Shishlin, warned.

East Berlin: President Daniel Ortega of Nicaragua said at the end of an East German tour yesterday that the new US trade sanctions would seriously affect his country's economy, but that Soviet bloc states had promised economic help.

His statement came after the US House of Representatives Intelligence Committee rejected President Reagan's request for \$28 million in military aid for Nicaragua rebels. Democrats, who control the influential committee, rejected the request by 10 votes to six.

Mr Ortega said that no political conditions had been attached to the aid.

In all the Warsaw Pact countries I have visited, there was a great readiness to help Nicaragua meet these problems, but we are not expecting abundance, and a solution to all our problems from this, he added. He declined to give details of the aid.

Mr Ortega described the sanctions as an extension of President Reagan's policy of terror against the Nicaraguan revolution. — Reuters.

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Christian rebels go over to Syria

From David Hirst in Beirut

After a patch within a patch, rebel Christian militiamen, for years the friends and allies of Israel, have now gone over to the Syrian camp.

Two months after Dr Samir Geagea led his Lebanese Forces militia in their uprising against President Gemayel, he has been replaced as leader by Elias Hobeika, his chief of security, with a ringing declaration of support for the policies which he had repudiated. Hobeika commanded the force which massacred Palestinian at the camps at Sabra and Chatila, in September 1982.

Several days of deepening confusion in the Maronite camp came to a head on Thursday evening, when it was announced that the 10-man "executive committee" of the Lebanese Forces had unanimously elected the 27-year-old Hobeika as their president until September.

Dr Geagea, who cast one of the votes, is a chief of staff, but that he has been supplanted as effective strongman there can be little doubt.

In the policy statement that followed, the new leadership declared that it was now inevitable that Lebanon should "return to the Arab fold." It called on the Arabs, and especially "sister Syria," to work for Lebanon's salvation.

If 10 years of civil war had obliged some to look to regional quarters (Israel) hostile to the Arabs, this had only been in self-defence. It called for "agreement among all Lebanese on a new formula for (national) entente." It had been precisely to stem Syria's growing role in Lebanese affairs that Dr Geagea had launched his rebellion. Syria, he had said, "cannot solve the Lebanese crisis." As for entente, he scorned entente: "The political language of the Middle East is violence."

Such a policy of force, applied at a time when the Israeli withdrawal was shifting the whole balance of power against the Christian militiamen, merely led to more military defeats. And the new Christian refugees from the Sidon hills and the Kila and Kila did not want to blame their leaders. Attempts to mobilise Western opinion on the refugees' behalf achieved little: never had the Christians felt so alone in the world.

The Lebanese Forces fell back to their last redoubt, the Maronite heartland north of Beirut. With the general heavy fighting in the capital, these were coming under assault.

These grim circumstances produced the turnaround. Elias Hobeika is hardly cut out for the peace-maker's role. One of Israel's men of peace, he has many unsavoury exploits to his name.

However, whereas his former chief, Dr Geagea, imbued with exalted notions of saving Lebanon from the sword, is uncompromising by nature, Hobeika is described by those who know him as a pure man of violence quite unnumbered by such ideals, as the ultimate Levantine pragmatist who can be in Tel Aviv one day and Damascus the next.

He has long fostered contacts with President Assad's brother, Rifkat, very much a man of his own stamp. His loyalty to the Geagea, "uprising" was always in doubt, in view of his close relations with President Gemayel.

There is perhaps no one better suited than Hobeika to swing his own apparatus, the Lebanese Forces, behind a policy of conciliation after 16 years of the opposite. For everyone, including Dr Geagea, is said to fear him.

But this will not be the last upheaval in the Maronite camp. Men like him, said a Maronite politician, "know that the game is almost up. They are trying to secure some recognised place in the coming Lebanese settlement before it is too late."

But it can only be a reduced place. They are rapidly discrediting themselves, others are bound to step forward.

Stop work call to unionists after deaths in police custody

SA student leader died after brain haemorrhage

From Patrick Lawrence in Johannesburg

Outrage at the death of two black leaders after their arrest by police yesterday, followed by the announcement that the student leader, like the trade unionist, suffered severe brain haemorrhage before death.

Lawyers acting for Mr Sipho Muti, who was a branch organiser of the South African Congress of Students in the Free State, made the disclosure in a statement yesterday. It was based on the report of an independent pathologist who attended the post-mortem examination on Mr Muti on Thursday.

Even before the pathologist's finding was made public, black trade unions and community organisations called on workers to down tools for two hours next Tuesday as a tribute to Mr Muti, who died in hospital less than two days after being detained by police.

According to an independent pathologist, Mr Muti died from "a subarachnoid haemorrhage on the right side of the brain consistent with trauma." He was in good health at the time of his arrest, trade union colleagues have insisted.

Mr Muti was killed on Tuesday at the East Rand township of Tsakane, scene of a fierce fighting between migrant workers and township residents for the past few days.

The call to stop work will be the first major test of the influence of black trade unions and organisations since the two-day stayaway by black workers in the Transvaal last November.

Yesterday's call had the backing of a wider spectrum of black organisations than November's, which shocked the white establishment by its effectiveness and triggered the detention of trade union leaders who sanctioned the boycott.

The call was linked with a statement "identifying the police as 'the cause' of violence in the townships and urging them to withdraw. Black workers have been asked to wear black armbands to bring home to employers their grief and anger at Mr Muti's death."

Mr Muti was arrested for questioning in Odendaarsburg last Saturday, the same day on which Mr Raditsela was detained. According to police, he suddenly started convulsing while sitting on a chair at a local police station. The independent pathologist, however, could detect no signs of epilepsy.

He was admitted to hospital first in Welkom and then in Bloemfontein. He was certified dead on arrival at Pelonomi Hospital in Bloemfontein, a hospital spokesman said.

The Minister of Law and Order, Mr Louis le Grange, yesterday ordered an inquiry into Mr Muti's death by a senior police officer. Earlier, the Commissioner of Police, General Johan Coetzee, ordered a similar departmental inquiry into Mr Raditsela's death.

The Cape Times yesterday called for an independent judicial inquiry into the deaths of both Mr Raditsela and Mr Muti.

Ghana extends a cool welcome

From Jonathan Randall in Accra

UNLIKE two years ago, when an estimated million illegal Ghanaian residents were summarily expelled from Nigeria, this time no cheering crowds or helping government hands await those deported.

With the Nigerian deadline theoretically expiring today, and only a relative handful of expelled Ghanaians back home, the Government here is showing none of the sympathy it extended then.

In Lagos, the Interior Minister, Major-General Mohammed Magoro, said that the Government did not intend to extend the deadline, but indicated that no force would be used against those who failed to leave by today, the Associated Press reported.

"Then it was like Dunkirk," remarked an English resident. "It was spontaneous, with private people driving down to pick up the deported at the border."

The radical change of heart is apparently due to the widespread feeling that those expelled in 1983 knew full well they risked further deportation when they returned to Nigeria illegally.

This time, in a country courageously trying to dig itself out of gigantic financial problems, many traditionally low-key Ghanaians feel those returning from Nigeria had left to avoid the strict austerity measures in force here.

"We're just a bit angry with those who are forever running after the end of the rainbow," a government employee remarked. So, too, is the Government itself.

The National Mobilisation Committee, which smoothly dealt with the 1983 influx, is this time making the returning Ghanaians pay for services rendered. If those expelled cannot pay their transport costs, their relatives are being asked to. Similarly, this time those arriving from Nigeria are required to pay normal customs duties on the goods they bring with them.

So far the Nigerians have either exaggerated the numbers of illegal residents, with Ghanaians said to account for 300,000 of the 700,000 asked to leave, or many have gone into hiding.

In any case, even counting the 5,000 Ghanaians said to be stranded between Nigeria and Benin to the west, to date fewer than 10,000 Ghanaians are reported to have returned along the 20-mile coastal highway separating the Nigerian border and the capital.

They represent the overwhelming majority of those leaving, since only a relative handful have returned by air or sea, or are believed taking other, more arduous, land routes.

The Government apparently wants to maintain a low profile, with no publicity or public appeals for outside help. In 1983, the Government of Flight-Lieutenant Rawlings appealed for help to the international community, which responded with food shipments.

"The expulsions were a blessing in disguise," a Ghanaian relief worker recalled. "We were in the midst of a serious drought and no one on the outside paid us any mind until those who had been feeding fat in Nigeria showed up. Then the whole world community came to our aid."

Then, as now, the authorities moved efficiently to disperse the returning Ghanaians to their home villages throughout the country, to avoid swelling the towns and cities with potential troublemakers.

Washington Post.

NEWS IN BRIEF

Shultz makes no progress

THE US Secretary of State, Mr Shultz, met Israeli leaders yesterday to discuss proposals about holding Middle East peace negotiations with a joint Jordanian-Palestinian delegation, writes Ian Black in Jerusalem.

The Foreign Minister, Mr Yitzhak Shamir, told Mr Shultz that Israel was resolutely opposed to negotiations with members of the Palestine National Council, the "parliament" of the PLO.

American sources indicated earlier this week that talking to PNC members might be a way of getting round the refusal of both Washington and Jerusalem to deal directly with the PLO. Mr Shamir appears to have scotched that idea, although it was unlikely that it would have been acceptable to the PLO anyway.

Student threat

MORE THAN 100 student anarchists yesterday threatened to blow up the occupied chemistry school at Athens university if 14 colleagues arrested during 24 hours of clashes with police in the centre of the capital were not released. The clashes began after the anarchists were banned from marching in protest against "the authority of the late and the fascist police." — AP.

Official gaoled

THE MOST senior government official to be charged under Hong Kong's bribery laws was gaoled yesterday for six years. Mok Wei-tak, aged 47, former acting director of the Building Development Department, was found guilty of maintaining a standard of living out of line with his official income. — Reuters.

Mengele search

ISRAELI, West German and US law enforcement officials have been meeting in Frankfurt to coordinate their pursuit of the Nazi war criminal, Josef Mengele, the US Attorney-General, Mr Edwin Meese, said in Washington yesterday. The officials "discussed ways to reinforce and maximise the efforts being made to bring Mengele to justice," he said. — AP.

PLO man cleared

A YOUNG Palestinian was cleared yesterday of murdering in Portugal PLO moderate leader in 1983, but was found guilty of entering the country with a false passport. Youssef Al-Awad had previously been tried and acquitted, but the Supreme Court annulled that verdict. — Reuters.

Room at inns

STREET CRIME and a bomb campaign by Basque separatist guerrillas have been blamed by Spanish hoteliers for a 12 to 15 per cent decline in holiday bookings this year. The Basque separatist leader met the Interior Minister, Mr Jose Barriocano, last night to discuss security. — Reuters.

Godard 'recants'

THE FRENCH film director Jean-Luc Godard has asked his Italian distributors to stop showing his controversial film *Hail Mary* in Rome — in and around the house of the Holy Father — a French Catholic spokesman said yesterday. — Reuters.

Aid may be cut

THE European Parliament has recommended cutting nearly £15.5 million from the European Commission's financial aid to Turkey because the country "persistently flouts democracy and human rights." — AP.

Tamils raze police post in mortar raid

From Roland Edirisinghe in Colombo

At least five policemen were killed yesterday in a fierce attack on a police station in the north-western town of Jaffna, which has been an estimated 100 Tamil separatist guerrillas using mortars and rockets.

Police said seven more policemen were unaccounted for and were feared buried in the debris of the building in the north-western coastal town. The attack, which occurred in the attack, two others were believed to have been abducted by the rebels.

Meanwhile, the United News of India news agency said yesterday that more than 75 Tamils were killed in the north when troops went on the rampage to avenge a rebel ambush of an army column.

It said the killings occurred on Thursday "in the Jaffna Peninsula, quoting cables sent to President Junius Jayewardene by the Tamil Liberation Front and the local citizens' committee."

The agency quoted the cables as claiming that troops went on a "rampage and massacre" in five villages and that the bodies of at least 40 men, women and children were found lying on roads.

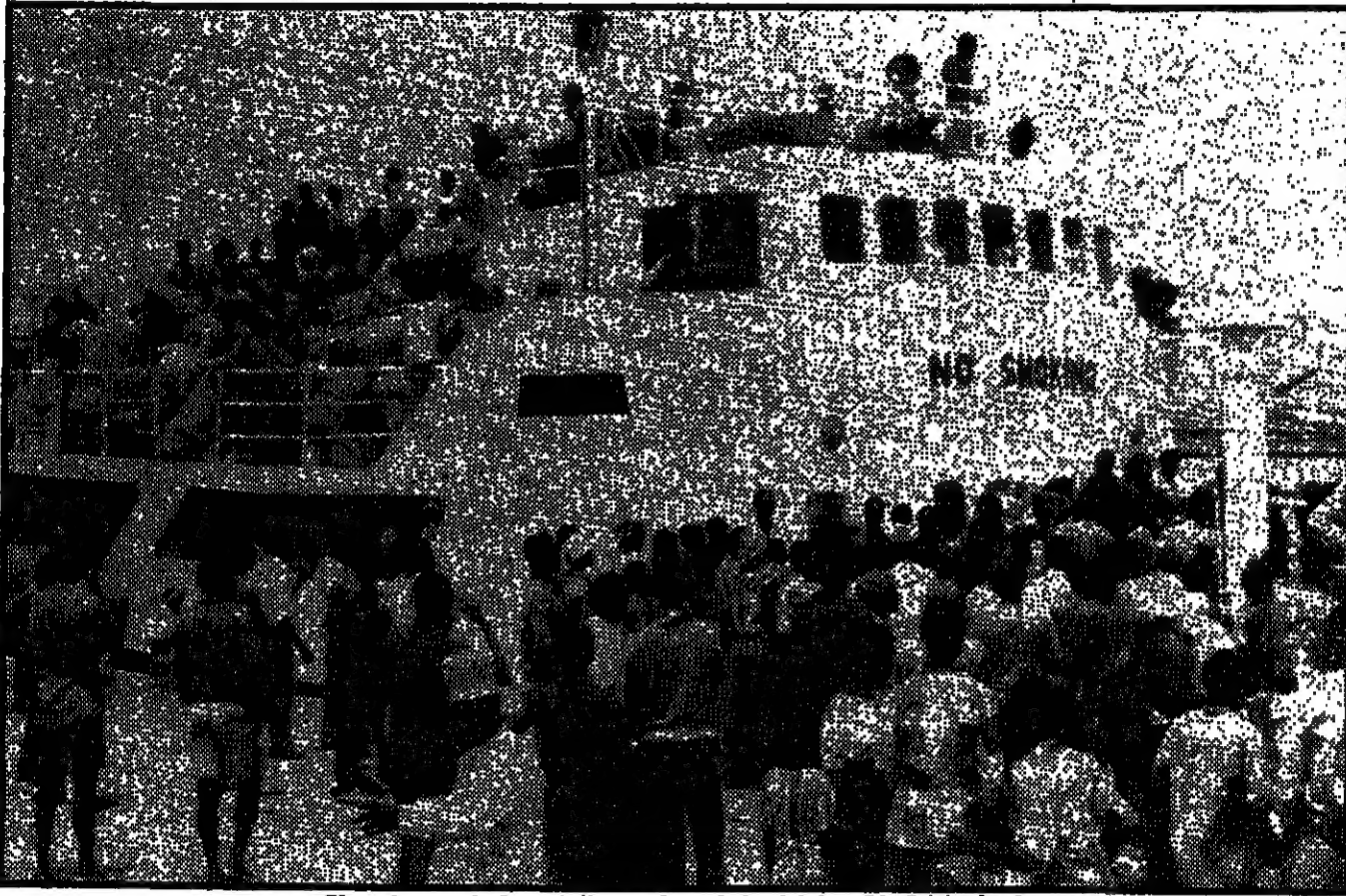
In the village of Oorani, 25 youths were killed after they were herded into the community centre and the building was blown up, the agency said. In the same village, 12 youths were alleged to have been

Strategic trip to Noumea

Noumea: The French Defence Minister, Mr Charles Hernu, made a symbolic arrival from the island of New Caledonia yesterday, to begin a two-day visit to New Caledonia. The visit was aimed at defining measures to reinforce France's strategic military presence in the Pacific, he said.

He boarded the submarine of the New Caledonia coast, flying to it by helicopter after his country now supplies the Third World with one-third of its emergency aid as much as the rest of Europe together.

Mr Hernu is to leave next week for Africa "where 30 million people risk dying of hunger."



Ghanaians await deportation on board the Adama I in Lagos harbour

Lagos misses expulsion deadline

Lagos: Several hundred Ghanaians blocked streets around Nigeria's immigration headquarters trying to get their papers in order. The element of fear as far as this exercise is concerned is not there.

Departures have been slow, because the authorities are checking departing immigrants strictly so that they do not take more than the equivalent of \$22 in Nigerian currency out of the country. Essential commodities may not be taken, either.

Neighbouring countries operate their border-crossing points only in daylight hours, and thousands of people have had to wait near the borders, standing in the open and being drenched by downpours that started on Tuesday, when the rainy season began.

In January, 1983, the then-civilian Government ordered foreigners out, and an estimated two million departed in scenes that were often violent and chaotic. The present Government, which took power at the end of 1983, has conferred with envoys of its neighbouring countries over the expulsion, in order to avoid damaging regional relations.

Many of the immigrants were attracted to Nigeria by its oil wealth, and others were fleeing drought and starvation in the sub-Saharan countries north and east of Nigeria. — AP.

The Government has not issued any estimate of overall departures, but Major-General Mohammed Magoro, the Interior Minister, estimated yesterday that 50,000 had left overland via Benin, and "quite a number have gone by both air and sea."

He said, in an interview with the BBC that the Government would not extend the deadline, which it announced on April 15, starting the second exodus in two-and-a-half years in Nigeria's attempt to keep more of its jobs for Nigerians.

When asked if the remaining immigrants would be forced out, he said: "I wouldn't call it forcible expulsion. We're giving them the option of getting their papers in order. The element of fear as far as this exercise is concerned is not there."

£2m a day for drought relief

From George Armstrong in Rome

A FORMER economics professor has been given the job, by the Italian Government, of spending nearly £2 million a day on famine relief for Africa and other Third World aid projects.

Mr Francesco Forte has resigned as Minister for EEC planning to administer the Italian budget, and is now spending £200 million which is to be spent by September 29 next year.

The 57-year-old Socialist MP, who is attached to the Foreign Ministry, will have what appears to be complete autonomy of action and the power to summon assistance from other ministries. He claims that with the other contributions made by Italy, his country now supplies the Third World with one-third of its emergency aid as much as the rest of Europe together.

Mr Forte is to leave next week for Africa "where 30 million people risk dying of hunger."

Ethiopia appeals for world seed airlift to halt aid cycle

Addis Ababa: Ethiopia appealed yesterday for an international airlift of seeds and tools to help up to 10 million famine victims in the country to reduce their reliance on food aid and to plant their own crops before the rainy season starts next month.

The appeal was made as Dr Tony Atkins, director of the US relief agency World Vision reported that more than 35,000 famine victims have walked back over the past three days to Innet, the famine relief camp that the Government has reopened after it was burned and evacuated by troops.

He said: "We are not prepared to deal with what is happening."

The agency is helping the Government rebuild the camp in the northern province of Gondar.

Messengers have been sent into the hills surrounding the camp to tell the tens of thousands who took refuge there that it is all right to return. Innet was the largest relief camp in Ethiopia, housing about 58,000 people.

Since the burning of the camp two weeks ago, Innet has been inundated with returning people, many of them suffering from exposure and respiratory infections after sleeping outside without warm clothing or shelter for more than a week in the cold, wet highlands.

The seed airlift appeal was made by the Government's top aid administrator, Mr Dawit Wolde Giorgis, of the Relief and Rehabilitation Commission. He told a news conference that Ethiopia needed 130,000 tonnes of seed to break out of the vicious cycle of food aid dependence.

Peasants now living on food handouts had been unable to take advantage of the present short rainy season to plant food because of inadequate seeds and tools.

He appealed to the world to match the "extremely generous" airlift of emergency food supplies which began arriving last October with a new airlift of aid for peasant farmers, who form the bulk of people now living at relief centres.

The appeal followed a controversy over the dispersal of famine victims from Innet. Mr Dawit said last week that the refugees left voluntarily to plant during the rains.

According to the American relief official, who returned here from Innet on Thursday, most of the estimated 52,000 people forced to leave Innet and ordered to walk home did not travel more than a few hours from the camp. A few thousand walked to government feeding centres in the Wollo region, about 80 miles east of the camp.

Dr Atkins said that Innet was being reopened to stabilise the health of the famine victims and to prepare them for a return home to resume farming.

After first denying reports of the closing of Innet, the Government promised to discipline local authorities who ordered its evacuation and it now cooperates with private relief agencies trying to round up and care for the evacuated refugees.

This week, the Government signed an agreement allowing World Vision to decide who is fit enough to return home from the camp. Dr Atkins said that those healthy enough to leave will be given food, seeds, tools and transport help. — Washington Post/Reuters.

Big French N-blast triggers protests

Wellington: France exploded a huge nuclear weapon at its South Pacific testing site on Mururoa Atoll yesterday, prompting angry protests from New Zealand and Australia.

New Zealand believes the blast was the biggest since France began underground testing in the Pacific 10 years ago. It called the explosion deplorable.

The Prime Minister, Mr David Lange, said: "All the countries of the South Pacific are absolutely opposed to nuclear testing in their region and have said so on many occasions."

Australia, also vocal in its opposition to the French tests, said there was no justification for continuing nuclear testing on the atoll, near Tahiti. Its acting Foreign Minister, Mr Gareth Evans, said that if France insisted on conducting

these tests, "it should do so in mainland France."

The explosion was big enough to register on seismographs in New Zealand, about 4,500 miles away. Measured by scientists at 150 kilotons the equivalent of 150,000 tonnes of TNT, it surpassed the previous biggest French test of 140 kt recorded in 1978.

"It is certainly a big explosion — a weapon rather than a trigger device," a seismologist, Mr Murray Lowry, said.

Meanwhile, France categorically denied reports saying that Algerian prisoners during the Algerian war were used as human guinea pigs for France's first nuclear test in 1960 in the Sahara. An Algerian television documentary alleged that French officials fed 150 Algerian captives to stakes a few miles from the test site to analyse the biological effect of radio-activity. — Reuters.

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Chief Ngabwe



Crossing the Luswishi River by dugout



A narrow bush track in Chief Ngabwe's area

Against all good advice, Brian Moss took a pushbike into the Zambian bush, where, 17 years earlier, he had been a teacher

White man on a bicycle, making tracks

LIKE MANY hundreds of other young teachers, I went to newly independent Zambia in the late sixties in search of adventure and the deposit to buy a house when I got back to England. After three reasonably productive years I returned, completely with slides of the game parks and Victoria Falls, but with a feeling that I had never seen the "Real Africa" deep in the bush.

In Zambia's 30th year of independence I decided to fill the gap in my education. With £400 in my pocket and a return ticket to Lusaka bought from a bucket shop, I packed my bicycle and set off for Heathrow on the first day of the summer holidays.

Officials at Lusaka Airport were far too amused to subject me to anything more than the briefest of formalities. They did make a point of advising me never to travel after dark for fear of armed robbers, although I believe that it is cars they seek, not pushbikes.

It took three days to reach Lusaka, the Copperbelt town where I once lived. It came as a surprise when

visiting my former school to find some of my 17-year-old visual aids still decorating the walls of the geography room. Old European friends thought my journey to be of dubious wisdom. African friends, including ex-pupils, told me I was downright crazy.

I had never cycled on a dirt road before and with 24 kilos of luggage, plus my own weight, it took a little time to acquire the art. After 40 dusty miles I reached Mpungwe, a Swedish mission, where a kindly nurse arranged to have me washed, fed and put up for the night. On the following day I crossed the Kafue River on a pontoon and met Chief Machiya. Like most Africans he could not understand why I should want to make such a journey but nevertheless gave me plenty of help and advice.

Although English is the official language I came upon many villages where nobody spoke other than their native tongue. "Muzungu nchinge" (white man on a bicycle), shouted the children at every village. Indeed, several parents told me that their

younger children were seeing a white man for the first time. Language was never a problem; the expression on my face usually indicated my needs and I was usually given a stool in a shady spot while bananas and maize beer were brought to me.

Before the journey I had spent nearly a day in Edward Stanford's London map shop. Doubtless the maps were accurate when printed 20 years ago, but with slash-and-burn agriculture, villages relocate when soils are exhausted, and the roads and tracks move with them.

Everyone had predicted that my journey would end at Luswishi River, since the road ended there. However, villagers told me of tracks beyond the river, which had no bridge and was populated with crocodiles and hippo. Eventually the bike was loaded on to a dugout canoe and across we went. The area appeared devoid of people but I assumed that the track had to lead somewhere or it would not exist. It was many miles before I came to several villages, deserted

apparently when the wells had run dry.

There were no water supply problems for Chief Ngabwe, who had a large wind pump to draw water for his five wives and numerous children. He spoke good English and told me that further travels were possible although the track would become very narrow and there was danger of meeting elephant and buffalo. He omitted to mention tsetse fly.

Even when I left a forest for a plain I still had no idea where I was, with the grass almost twice my own height. I had to dodge poachers' animal traps and was constantly disentangling grass from the wheels and gears. I saw enough wild animals but none which were a danger to man. With only minutes before the onset of darkness I reached the Kafue River again, where a fisherman on the opposite bank heard my shouts and came with his boat to rescue me.

Villagers gave me shelter and food but it was not until I had told them everything about Chief Ngabwe, from the number of his wives to the

colour of his windmill, that they felt able to believe that I had indeed made the journey on a cycle.

The further south I went, the more sand became a problem: it seemed a struggle even to overtake pedestrians at times. I carried a tent but never pitched it once, in five weeks. I never lacked for a mud hut and a few animals skins on which to unroll my sleeping bag. Meals always consisted of *Nshima*, a porridge made from maize. This resembles but alas, does not taste like, mashed potato. Meat depended on what the hunters had caught: frequently it was from a kudu. My hosts often apologised for not being able to provide knives and forks.

In Southern Province I rejoined a tar road and covered the 120 miles from Choma to Livingstone in one day. After three years' of inadequate rains the Victoria Falls were less spectacular than when I had last seen them. The Eastern Cataract on the Zambian side was dry for most of its width. You still needed waterproofs to view the Zimbabwe side.

Having spent most of the journey hoping not to meet wild animals I was reluctant to return home without a few elephant photographs. The Chobe Swamp of North Botswana was only a day's ride from Livingstone so I made it my furthest point West. The immigration officers explained that I would not be wise to cycle through an area so full of game so I booked in at the safari lodge in Kasane and hired a boat and guide. It was not cheap but the game viewing was so good that the unit cost per elephant photograph was extremely low.

The return to Lusaka was on tarred roads which compensated for the prevailing headwind. In 1,500 miles I had only five punctures although I wore out one set of tyres and reshaped the rims somewhat. The bike is a standard Raleigh bought secondhand from a local paper boy. Apart from a larger range of gears, it is fitted with heavy gauge stainless steel spokes which do seem to be unbreakable. My handlebars are straight rather than dropped: I prefer looking at the scenery, not the front wheel.

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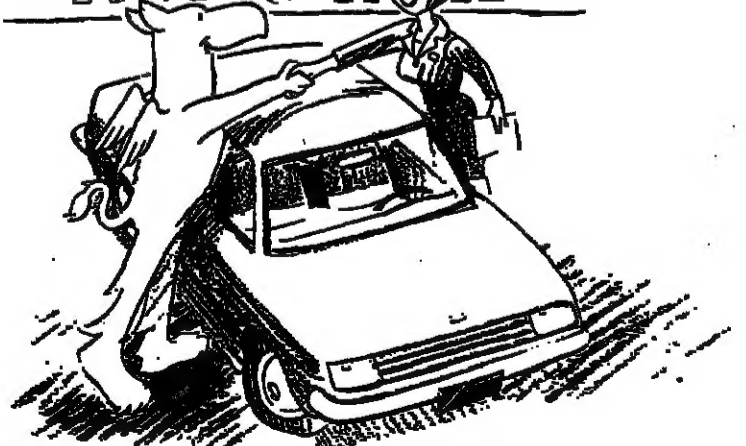
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WEEK-END ARTS

Gavin Lyall's new thriller is an exciting tale of the CIA's response to a neutral Britain. He talked to Hugh Hebert about the facts behind his fiction

Maxim's of power

HE answered the question before I had finished asking it, which should have made me suspicious. It was the old McCarthy question, are you or have you ever been connected with MI6, and the answer was No. But I believed him anyway.

Gavin Lyall's new thriller, *The Crocus List*, out on Monday is the third of his Harry Maxim novels, about a group of sleepers left in place in Britain by the CIA, ready to be woken by Washington if it looks as though Albion's about to go perdition and turn into a neutral. When it happens in banana republics they call it de-stabilisation; and you wouldn't want that to happen, would you?

Later I was less sure I should have believed him, because he said: "Whether the CIA did set up destabilisation groups I don't know. But there was an element in the CIA that wanted to—that I have established. And you've seen some elements of destabilisation in Italy and so on. Whether they reached out to Britain I don't know. The branch was there. I've invented the twigs."

The first novel about Major Harry Maxim, *The Secret Servant*, had the ex-SAS officer posted to Number 10 as military adviser on security, and soon detailed to watch the back of a lecherous professor who happened to be crucial to the British strategic negotiations with the Europeans.

The second book, *The Conduct Of Major Maxim*, was an even more complex web of duplicities and tough-guy heroics, involving East Germany, the rivalries between MI5 and MI6, and the geography of Goolie Goolie. Maxim, in fact, took Gavin Lyall into new fictional fiefdoms. His early novels, starting in the sixties with *The Wrong Side Of The Sky* were often about pilots who worked for small crumbly air transport outfits, flying shaky aircraft on jobs that

turned out to be shakier still.

Lyall had done his flying during his National Service. It was, he said, the RAF that decided him against becoming a Great Novelist. "It was a practical place, where things like fuel gauges were important. It knocked a lot of the pretensions out of me." It knocked quite a few of his friends out of the sky. They lost about one pilot in ten on the jet conversion course, where they left behind the propellers and tried to get used to the Meteor. It was the early Fifties.

By the time he came out of the RAF and went to Cambridge, he had decided that the world was a practical place indeed. He was a journalist, and he wrote books they would be thrillers.

But it was a while before he actually wrote one. He was on Picture Post for the first year of his life, where he worked with photographers like Bert Hardy and sat next to Katharine Whitehorn. He has been married to her ever since, and like an errand boy he has been at her house as soon as we arrived at their house. A lad with blood in his ink.

Lyall moved on to the BBC, then to the Sunday Times. When Whitehorn went to the rival Observer, they offered him a job too, "because you're a non-bastard." Which turned his stomach somewhat; he opted to stay at the Sunday Times, where there were plenty of bastards.

"It all relates doesn't it? It's about talking to people, finding things out. In the books I want to know I've got the basic foundations right, and these can improve. But it is not improving in a different way. The Maxim books came out of a television project that fell through. His novels before



A model for Maxim: Gavin Lyall and the tank he's invented for Maxim Four. Picture by Martin Argles

that had all been about maverick figures, but the Maxim books are centred on conformists at the core of the establishment. Where he always wrote in the first person, he has now switched to the third, and that he found was hell.

Those early heroes were recognisably in the English tradition of thrillers. Lyall was heavily influenced by Hammett and Chandler while he was living with thrillers at university, and their style is imprinted on his first books. But those West Coast private eyes are involved professionally in whatever trouble clanks them on the head or shoots them in mean streets.

Your British thriller hero was something else, a professional at his job, but his job was not sleuthing for 10 bucks, plus expenses. They got into their scrapes by accident, or because of some perfectly honourable desire to help in a situation that their real job might or might not have landed them in — as in *The Riddle Of*

The Sands, Ambler, John Buchan.

But you had to admire those amateur heroes, if only because no one was paying them. It is less easy to admire a professional who is a trained thus but happens to be SAS. It becomes more difficult still as governments come to rely more on grabbing intelligence out of the sky than from dead letter drops.

So does Lyall admire Maxim? George Harbinger, his immediate boss? Agnes, the MI5 co-ordinator? "I admire them all within their limitations. They are trying — trying to do what they agreed to do in the first place. Agnes talks about 'loyalty beyond disillusion'. She says there's a lot wrong with what I signed up to support, but it's better than what I signed up to oppose."

Lyall turned 53 this week. By the time he came to write the first Maxim book, several of the people he had known in university days had been through some of the choicer places of White-

hall, including Number 10. And when he had decided the broad outline of Maxim's role, he went to the MoD public relations office and asked them to provide a background for him.

"And did he also put questions to MI5? Not through their letter box. But, yes, I did ask questions." And did he get answers? "There are always answers, of a sort."

"It's more a matter of attitudes you look for. A journalist may go to the Geneva conference, and he will want to know what happened in the conference room. I want to know what the room is like, how things are organised, how the cars draw up, how the Americans behave, how the Russians behave. The moment the journalist gets really interested in the moment I go home for a drink."

"Because I've got the guts of the story, what actually happens in the conference room — I've invented it. OK, so it's invented out of years of cutting stories out of

papers, reading political memoirs — but invented."

For what he calls Maxim Four he has invented also the new British main battle tank, whose details the bodies desperately want. He has done more than that, he has built a scale model.

He has very enjoyable correspondences with experts. He thinks they enjoy it too. When I asked if he felt he had ever been used, he paused. Then he conceded that some information he was given about Lloyd's of London now, after various revelations, looks as though it was less than frank. But he didn't use it anyway. But had anyone phoned about Maxim and whispered, "I wish you hadn't said that?"

"No — not yet. Bit disappointed, really."

The Crocus List will be published on Monday by Hodder & Stoughton (£8.95). *The Secret Servant*, *The Conduct Of Major Maxim*, and most of Lyall's earlier novels are available in paperback from Pan.

Bell, book and candle

Nancy Banks-Smith investigates
The Detective on BBC

TOM BELL came into the room like a draught. His daughter's fiancé, expressing a polite interest in his hobby of genealogy, asked where he dug up all his ancestors. "Graveyards," said Bell gravely.

He is seldom, one suspects, mistaken for Old King Cole. Friends only infrequently slap him on the back and say "give us a comic song. You'd be looking at a sunbeam" a little time before the thought of Tom Bell, which is why I walked warily as if it might be mine under the information, that in an actors' directory, that his hobby is growing sunflowers.

Sunflowers Sunflowers. He has the quality of saying nothing so that everyone listens and of looking alone in a crowd. Indeed, it doesn't remain a crowd for long as people are apt to look at their watches and say, "Good lord, is that he?" These late these fates which live at excessive depths he appears to be two profiles stuck together and you rather expect him to have two eyes on one side. He is, in fact, described in *The Detective* as "A cold fish but dedicated to

the point of inhumanity." This fine facility for putting the wind up people is remarkably effective in lone wolf, underworld serial Out. Unusually in *The Detective*, he plays a policeman, Commander Crocker, a man of indefinable principle and unshakeable integrity. Upright, just, and — naturally — almost universally disliked.

In an opening episode he reports his brother-in-law for a breach of the peace and threatens to report his future son-in-law for smoking cannabis and his best friend for sleeping on the job, so to speak. This causes a good deal of family friction, raised voices, banging doors and cries of "Don't expect me to come to the wedding!" while Crocker calmly continues composing a genealogical piece called *The Crockers. An Ordinary Family*. As, judging from the uproar, they are.

I have been putting off the moment when I must admit that I have a rather poor memory for faces. I once greeted a faintly familiar face with extravagant enthusiasm. "How lovely to see you again."

"When are you coming to dinner?" "Shut up," it said. "I'm your dentist."

Crocker has been conducting surveillance on a trades union leader, whom the government hope to get for subversive activities or, failing that, double parking. When the suspect, shadowed from a brothel for underage girls, whipped off his wig and stood revealed, was humiliated to realise I had no idea who he was. Acting on information received, however, I can tell you that it was not the trade union leader. It was the Home Secretary. Now read on, amazed.

I wouldn't say anyone in *The Detective* struck me as remotely like him, but it is all done with a touch of elegance: a bit of wit ("He speaks mediaeval Italian." "Who to?") and, of course, it has Tom Bell coming in like a change in the weather.

The Hunting Party (BBC2), it says here, was the story of a race between a band of aborigines and the thing which, like a living fish, I couldn't seem to grasp was that the

aborigines never had any intention of reaching the finishing post first or even of going in that direction.

Although they were led by David Guipit who, having been an actor in Hollywood, understands little Western quiddities like working and winning, they walked purposefully in the wrong direction, eating lily stalks and ants nests ("Good for cold, fever, headache") and, guided only by air bubbles appearing in a geyser, a turtle and astonishingly a large black bird. They remained throughout in the highest spirits and best of health.

The soldiers meanwhile were "Looking pretty bloody crook" and, after three days without food, gracefully complimenting the chef on his charred catfish ("Even a dead dog would taste good.")

They won, if winning had any meaning. It evidently had none for the aborigines. I wish I had understood better David Guipit's explanation that the great thing was to follow the creek and avoid hostile spirits. I wish even more I had heard the soldiers' comments.

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SWANSEA
David Adams

A Solitary Confinement

OF Maud Gonne's fight for a Free Ireland, her concern for the Evictions, her campaigning for prisoners, we know little other than that which was appropriated and commemorated by Yeats. To see one's life not as achievement but as a subject for poetry is hardly satisfying for a would-be feminist revolutionary.

A Solitary Confinement by Jan Page was commissioned by and given its premiere at the Taliesin Centre for the Arts, explores the reasons for this fate and argues its case by inventing a setting that is simultaneously 1895 and 1898, the time slip apparently disturbing neither Maud Gonne nor her newly-found friend Sarah as they exchange confidences in a Riviera resort.

Their two lives, the one privileged, passionate and slightly patronising, the disadvantaged, disaffected and despondent, eventually come to meet and clash. Maud, the English-born Irish patriot, is seen not to have changed one bit the sexual relationships of her New Ireland while Sarah, the Irish-born Englishwoman, can and has tried to exercise her right to choose, for example, to have an abortion.

It's a play that pertinently places sexual freedom above political freedom by pointing out the male dominated nature of Sinn Féin and the IRA, so questioning the whole revolutionary intent of the nationalists. Sarah, with the hindsight of today, can tell Maud of her failures and

the fraud of the Irish Republic.

But although such questions are at the root of the play, to some extent Jan Page does let it become a personal study of someone whose obvious got a deep fascination for her. The play doesn't altogether work also because the dialogue isn't always convincing, but more because the characters themselves don't live.

BIRMINGHAM

Barry Still

CBSO/Rattle

ANGLICAN cathedral choirs are a unique institution, though few of their number achieve the level of excellence of the 30 singers of Christ Church, Oxford. They are equally dedicated and professional when away from their regular liturgical duties as was made clear when directed by Simon Rattle, in two utterly contrasting, but complementary pieces.

Mozart's Requiem benefits from cool, impersonal treatment, when the music itself can carry the message unburdened by emotional overtones and this is where the choir, focused on the trebles and clerics was so apt.

Rattle struck the ideal style in this riveting account, with the exciting fugue in the Kyrie, the terrifying rhythmic power of Dies Irae, the measured joy of the hosannas. The choir covered the whole gamut of dynamics complemented by precise phrase starts and ends in singing which earned deserved acclaim.

Enfant et les Sorlites by Ravel brought wider opportunities for the strong solo team. This is a moving score, whose ravishing

sounds were compellingly delivered by the City of Birmingham Symphony Orchestra from the perfectly placed opening oboe duet onwards.

PLYMOUTH

Allen Saddler

Crystal Clear

CRYSTAL Clear is the painfully honest account of relationships between three people, overshadowed by blindness. The discussion of the emotional problems between the three is the quality of a tape recorder left running. The play was devised by improvisation, with the three actors secure in their characters before the plot. Naturalness has never been more acute. The humour is bitter, and the situation of a blind person falling in love with a sighted blind, is a faithful working of a grand tragedy in a modern setting.

The Plymouth production is directed by Anthony Allen, who took the lead role in the original production. He has coached a feeling performance from David Milne, Milne's flip exchanges with his blind lover and his dialogue with the other sighted woman in his life prepared to give, are delivered with a light touch underlined with irony. Here is a man at the end of his tether, railing against his fate with genuine cries of despair. Milne's sensitivity in the part is an object lesson in underplaying to achieve the maximum effect.

Susie Fugle's well-observed blind woman matches the passion of Milne's tragic hero. Christine Kimberley is suitably prosaic in the unsympathetic part of the

woman with a sack full of hang-ups who is willing to dissect them interminably.

TOTNES

Nicolas Cottis

Where The Wind Blows

THE DAY after the VE Day anniversary broke out, the Northcott Theatre Club at Exeter opened a production of Raymond Briggs' nuclear bomb play *Where The Wind Blows*. This is the stage version of his cartoon book about the adventures of Jim and Hilda, patient survivors of the atomic holocaust, and it argues very persuasively that wartime memories should be for backwards looking only.

Arthur Nightingale's Jim is a less cuddly character than the one in the pictures. His spectacles flash as he scuttles about his house like irradiated cockroach, leeching through the pages of *Protect And Survive*. He not only believes it and trusts it, he could almost convince himself that he has written it. Mike Burnside's direction shows a nice observation of the minutiae of physical movement, and Sarah Shipton as Hilda looks and moves and underdresses as though he had floated her off the pages of Briggs' *Mother Goose*.

But the play needs more variety in verbal infection than it gets here — perhaps more than the text provides for, though Hilda has a touch of vitriol in her lines that Sarah Shipton's timing misses. The action moves along like an opera. Now Wagner had a vision of the holocaust which he spaced out over 18 hours, but he used music, too.

Tim Pulleine on the many-sided talents of Edmond O'Brien

Man of parts

EDMOND O'BRIEN, who has died after a long illness, aged 69, was among the most notable exponents of character acting in Hollywood's later studio era. The distinctiveness of his physical presence, bushy and somewhat bulbous, was rewardingly offset by a flexibility of intonation, ranging from the hard bitten to the ripely comic.

An apprentice at Orson Welles's Mercury Playhouse, O'Brien made his first film appearance in the Hunchback Of Notre Dame in 1939, but it was after the war that he became a familiar screen performer and for nearly three decades thereafter he appeared in any number of films of every kind.

Among his more memorable early performances were the laconic insurance detective in *The Killers* and the undercover G-Man in *White Heat*. He played some leading roles in minor films but gravitated when still comparatively youthful towards character parts. The seal was set on this tendency when in 1954 he won the Oscar for best supporting actor as the sweating, ingratiating press agent in *The Barefoot Contessa*, though a year before he had risen to the occasion among distinguished company as Casca in *Julius Caesar*.

In 1955 he co-directed a striking low budget thriller, *Shield For Murder*, and a few years later directed *Man Trap*, another punchy and effective melodrama which merits rediscovery. During the 1960s O'Brien's acting style adopted a broader register and he created a number of almost Dickensian cameos, notably the frontier editor in John Ford's *The Man Who Shot Liberty Valance* and the renegade Confederate General in a rather later Western, *Rio Conchos*.

Subsequently his health declined, but he was seen in small roles in several films during the 1970s. His death removes yet another stalwart personality from the seemingly irreplaceable gallery of the American cinema's ever more distant halcyon days.



Edmond O'Brien

Next week's TV and radio

Monday

Panorama (BBC 1, 9.25). Tom Mangold rides New York's subway with a team of would-be Charles Bronsons inspired by Bernhard Goetz who leapt to fame when he shot four youths he thought were robbing him, and got away with it.

This Year's Blonde (BBC 2, 8.0). Another product of Marilyn Monroe's industry, one of a trilogy of movies based on Garson Kanin's *Moviola*. Stars Constance Ford, a less than convincing look-alike.

Tuesday

Barredades (ITV, 10.30). "When a bird is killed it appears to dance, but in fact it is writhing in pain": so an old man explains his apparent well-being though he has lost his home, his work, and his friends to the ten-year civil war in Lebanon. The same might be said of the three young women this film focuses on, each from a different sect, each trying to lead a normal life.

Behind The Lines (BBC 2, 9.35). Ian Woodbridge forsakes the cissies of the sports stadiums for the real men who aspire to join the elite Mountain and Arctic Warfare Cadre of the Royal Marines, in this first part of a seven-part series.

Stand By Your Man (C4, 9.0). D.I.V.O.R.C.E. might have been a better title for this Tammy Wynette biopic she has been through four of them. Annette O'Toole, providing her own vocals, impersonates the "queen of country" through her early career and two marriages.

Wednesday

About Time (C4, 9.0). A blast against the tyranny of time, packaged in a six-part series. Illustrated by countless assorted timepieces, apparently random observations and a mass of often fascinating historical detail.

Stammering Cured (BBC 1, 9.25). Orthodox speech therapists may have word for Andrew R. Bell but as far as his clients are concerned he has the gift of tongues. This QED report follows a group of stammerers on one of his courses.

Catching A Snake (BBC 1, 9.25). Likeable profile of Winston Marshall, the virtuoso trumpet player who once turned down the chance to play with the Boston Symphony Orchestra in order to join Art Blakey's band.

Thursday

Nada (BBC 2, 7.50). Touring the world's shanty-towns and massaging the liberal conscience is a television staple (on Friday, *World About Us* visits Mexico City), and the makers of this *Global Report* drama-documentary have evidently tried to minimise the element of prurience by ensuring that the subjects of their film have the major say in the making of it. Inspired by Bunuel's *Los Olvidados* and set in the barrios of Bogota, it tells of a mother's search for her missing children "in a city where it's better for children to die than be lost."

Friday

The Battle For Mansion House Square (BBC 1, 10.15). "Giant glass stamp or 'authentic' 20th century masterpiece": this Omnibus report successfully brings alive the debate about whether the developer Peter Palombo should be allowed to build a Mies van der Rohe skyscraper in the heart of the City.

Helen Oldfield

Radio

TODAY: Edinburgh's Golden Mile (Radio 4, 3.30 pm). Investigation of Edinburgh's claim to be the largest financial centre in the EEC outside the City of London. Tomorrow: Uniman, Wittering and Zep (Radio 4, 2.30 pm). Repeat of the terrifying Gales Cooper black comedy about the young teacher and the little dark-year Lower Fifth B. Gulliver Five (Radio 3, 7 pm). Freddie Jones as Captain Lennu Gulliver in Brian Wright's play about the fifth voyage.

Monday: Space Force (Radio 2, 10 pm). Another galactic adventure, with Charles Chilton's astronauts discovering some rather ancient aliens on Mars. Tuesday: Oxford Voices (Radio 4, 4 pm). Some eminent Oxford women discuss the university and what it means to them: not, surprisingly, including Mrs Thatcher.

Wednesday: When You And I Were 17 (Radio 4, 3 pm). Sequel to *Solo Boy*, a charming play about a choirboy, by Hugh Jenkins, and interviewing to hear how an ex-Minister of the Arts acquires himself.

Thursday: The Message In The Bottle (Radio 4, 4.30 pm). The drug problem again: this time, alcohol. Geoff Watts investigates a growing problem. Friday: Feedback (Radio 1, 8.45 am). New series of the complaints and queries programme, with Susan Marling in the chair.

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WEEK-END PEOPLE

How the devil in Mr Burgess brings God down to earth

BLASPHEMY piles upon blasphemy. Last week intinacities were propounded between Mary Magdalene and Jesus Christ. Now the heretical scribe Anthony Burgess suggests that Jesus, possessing the strength and vast lungs of an ox, was removed unconscious from the tree of shame to be restored to full vigour after a healing sleep.

Hearken then, to the law. The blasphemer shall be stripped naked, four cubits from the place of stoning. At a distance of 10 cubits, stoning shall commence until the transgressor falls. Three or four men shall then raise the greatest stone and break the ribs.

Gird yourselves, for in these proceedings you will hear of abominations, unnatural acts and masturbation. Aye, and worse. The additional charges are that the author proclaims Jesus's innocence, has ridiculed the Pope ("To him all women are the Virgin Mary") and dealt in black magic. The charge of eating human flesh in New Guinea, admitted but vitiated as an act of ignorance, has been dropped. It is replaced by the inculpation of being too clever by half.

THE Kingdom of the Wicked tops off Burgess's unfinished business with the Bible. It is a recreation of early Christianity beginning at the Last Supper where the disciples, rather in the manner of a snuffily football team abandoned by their manager, cobble together a strategy to

play the game of love. The opposing team, mustering Tiberius, Caligula and Nero, play very dirtily indeed.

Stonings are pretty commonplace. His scripts for the TV series *Moses*, the Lawgiver and Jesus of Nazareth tell foul of Southern Baptists even as he was writing spin-offs in novel form. His latest book, was compiled in tandem with the 10-hour series AD, shown recently on American television.

Puffing an evil little cigar in a London hotel this week, he recalled that he had married Jesus of Nazareth off in his script for Sir Lew (now Lord) Grade. "I've always assumed," that Christ was married," he said. "He didn't start his mission until he was 30. Being a young Jewish boy in a small town he would undoubtedly have married at the age of about 20."

He had unctuously stated his intentions at a press conference in Rome. "I said we're trying to show Christ as a common man, so you'll smell the blood and feel the impact of the nails. The trouble started immediately."

Italian censors bawled him with alterations. "Those religious experts tried everything to have me thrown out of Italy. Hypocrites!" General Motors then withdrew its funding after Southern Baptist threats to boycott its cars. IBM stepped in. Meanwhile, Sir Lew was entranced. "We used to see him in the viewing room

practically every day, trying to understand it. He's started something that was just too big for him."

He denies that he is still trying to exorcise his Catholic childhood. (He attended a Catholic college in Manchester.) He is attracted more by the Bible's intellectual tradition, blending myth and philosophy. He sees it also as a comedy. — Peter, hungry as hell, dreaming of food and hearing a voice that said "Eat, all is good." After that pork was back on the menu.

"And the whole idea of God planting Christianity in Rome, the last place in the world where it should go. God's jokes are rather heavy and they're rather sexual. They're based on the penis: to circumcise or not to circumcise. They're also based on this fight against the many-breasted Oriental sex goddess. You have to see it in those terms."

Entertainment, not uplift, is his defence. While the Church sheds its articles of faith, "Once you start saying it's only a symbolic thing you'll end up with Christ as a mushroom. All right, fine. But the Church of England has to go that way. It's in the very seeds of Christianity to get rid of everything. It's amazing that the Church of England has lasted so long."

As a writer he is embarrassed by miracles, but has experienced black magic. It had begun when he took up a teaching post in Malaya in

1954. He and his first wife were temporarily housed in a former Japanese interrogating centre. "Our bathroom was covered with dried blood. I always felt there was something wrong with the damn place, when you went into the bathroom there was an extreme chill. It was a spiritual cold."

Finally I met a Tamil gentleman who was a magician. He tried, and very nearly succeeded, in luring my wife away from me by enforcing a total paralysis on myself. God knows how he did it. I was never sceptical again. You've got to be near a jungle, I think. There's something in the jungle that is not quite right."

At 68, this year he has knocked off a book about D. H. Lawrence. Loin and dark gods made Christianity seem pale. He has now embarked on the big one that breaks all the rules, a novel about Manchester in the 1930s. On the drawing board at his home in Monaco is an opera about Sigmund Freud — "the victory of soma over psyche."

Thought-association took us to VE Day, which Burgess, a sergeant-major in intelligence, spent in a Spanish jail. He had awoken that morning from a hangover induced by Court Martial Beer to find Gibraltar awash with bawling soldiers. Loud was their spewing. "I decided to go to Spain for the afternoon. I got very drunk in a Spanish cafe and started shouting the odds about General Franco."

He was picked up and gaoled until his unit rescued him three days later. He was haunted by the impression that the smell of roasted flesh was drifting in on the wind from Europe.

He once said of his distant cousin, Guy Burgess: "He pissed in our soup and we drank it." His own torrents of credulity have been sampled more thoughtfully. Was he sensitive to criticism? "Yes, terribly. I'll never get over it."

He has been told all his life that he writes too much. His ironies had been misunderstood, his deliberate errors spotted. Philistines everywhere. He once heard a professor claim that the key to his work was the name of his first novel's hero, R. Ennis. Backwards this spelled sinner.

As a critic he feels more slammed against than slammung. The New York Review of Books never spares him, he says. By a divine joke one of his tormentors employed by that organ is Clive James, on whose TV show he appears tonight.

"I'm not happy about it, but you've got to try and sell a book. He's a very good journalist but the novel he wrote was disastrous. I thought, a bit of a chip on his shoulder about being Australian. He's getting bald and he's getting fat."

Over to you, Clive.



BURGESS: Seeing the Bible as comedy.

Picture by Graham Turner

Stepping out of the shadows

THERE is something faintly disturbing about the energy of American performers, even off stage. Discharging unnatural voltages, they effervesce and their eyes threaten to soar with the excitement of it all. This is not the British way. Nor is the fact that they're so maddeningly good at what they do.

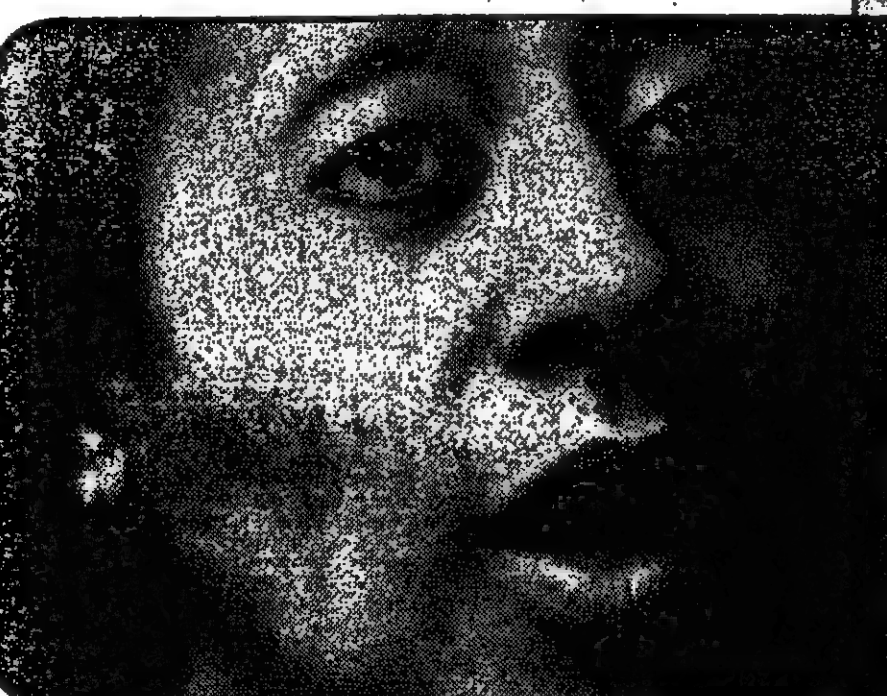
It's energy, discipline and focus, but the greatest of these is discipline, says Oceana Bragg, whose Solid State Art company has brought more than 40 young artists to form the company's first wing of the American Festival which begins on Monday.

"It's all built into the training system so that you get the right result," she explained at the Bloomsbury Theatre, where *Blitz the Big Apple* will be staged over the next fortnight. "It's something that develops out of an environment. This is not a criticism of the British people, but my feeling here is that the commitment is not as strong."

"We call it 'on.' An artist will seize every opportunity to be 'on.' This was probably why an American musical entertainer once offered to show me the tattoo on her chest."

Oceana Bragg was a dancer with the Metropolitan Opera and for the past eight years has been director of the Lower East Side of New York. The centre is a leading presenter of dance companies from all over America as well as the cultural hub of the Bowery — the deadbeat area of Manhattan with an increasingly upbeat reputation.

Last year she and her partner David Kincaide decided to provide a new platform for the explosion of young talent and the Solid State Art Inc is a packaging operation which produces mixed programmes for dis-



Into the Limelight: BRAGG, above and PAYNE, Right. Picture by Garry Wesser

ferent presenters. At the Bloomsbury they have programmed concerts that embrace dance, music, video and theatre.

It is not a lucrative business. They expect a shortfall of \$9,000 on their budget of \$48,000, and are hoping for more funding to complete their tour to Manchester and Europe. "Funding at home is very difficult," she said. "We are dealing with the same amount of dollars. It just has to go further."

They are offering American food as well. Her mother, a former caterer known to all as "Ma Bragg," will preside over such mysteries as black-eyed peas, spoon bread and American turkey.

Above all, it will be an opportunity to view the latest American contemporary arts.

When British reserve must stay offstage

"YOU'LL have to take me as I am," said Sarah Payne, apparently apologising for her appearance. What she looks like on a good day does not bear thinking about. She has the unenviable task of taking over from the actress who took over from Ellen Greene, who created the role of Audrey in *Little Shop of Horrors*. This is the cautionary musical tale of a dumb blonde florist who tends a plant with ideas above its flowerpot. The task is unen-

viable because it is still measured against the luminous performance of Ellen Greene, an American actress of awesome energy.

Sarah Payne is British, at 25 a veteran of Barnum and Singing in the Rain. She was a friend of Ellen Greene, and knew her "scattergun" brio. Why are we so different?

"I think it's all to do with British reserve," she said. "Our pow, it often hunk what American pizzazz is. When I

am doing rehearsals I go full-belt once in the day, but there's no point in driving yourself into the ground. I think you have to work yourself into a part, you can't just step into it."

Clare Leach, the American star of 42nd Street, told Payne recently that only death would stop her appearing on stage. How ill did Sarah have to be to send on her understudy. Pretty sick, she replied. "I had German measles when I was in Barnum."

I looked down and saw it was everywhere. We had to mangle it up off a kid. I picked it up off a kid."

She had played an operatic role in Barnum, her big break. "I was determined to prove I could do something else and not just play ingenue leads for the rest of my life."

After university, she started her career singing in clubs and pubs, a desperate measure to secure an Equity card.

Manchester Guardian 1935

MAY 11: It was a good thing that the King and Queen chose the poor quarters of Lambeth and Battersea for their surprise drive today (at the time of their Silver Jubilee) instead of South Kensington or Bayswater, for there are hardly any decorations in the latter and the former are full of them. Moreover, the Lambeth and Battersea decorations are mainly home made and are full of character. Even in the back streets of Battersea are streamers of paper red, white, and blue roses strung from window to window, and the kerb and window lintels are painted red, white, and blue. Hoops from barrels strung with paper flowers are hung up, and pavement artists out of professional hours have painted the King and Queen with twirly frames on many walls and pavements. The queer cockney humour breaks through in such a sign as "Lousy but loyal."

BERLIN, MAY 10: Herr Julius Streicher, the notorious anti-Semitic and publisher of the "Stürmer," in whose native city of Nuremberg the Anti-Jewish World League is at present holding overflow meetings, has received from Sir Oswald Mosley a telegram which is published in the German press today. After thanking Herr Streicher for a previous message, Sir Oswald says:

"I greatly esteem your message in the midst of our hard struggle. The forces of Jewish corruption must be conquered in all great countries before the future of Europe can be made secure in justice and peace. Our struggle is hard, but our victory is certain."

MAY 13: The Prince of Wales delivered a speech at

luncheon during his visit to Cardiff. The toast of "The Prince of Wales" proposed by the Lord Mayor (Alderman John Donovan), was supported by Mr. Lloyd George, who said that he had been invited as the representative of North Wales, in order to show that North and South joined in a united welcome to the Prince.

Responding to the toast, the Prince of Wales said: "While the Jubilee is being celebrated here today we are bound to have in our minds the words which the King used in his broadcast last Monday (May 8) when his Majesty said that in the midst of the day's rejoicings he grieved to think of the many people still without employment."

"Having seen for myself," said the Prince, "the discouragement which has afflicted valleys and ports in the Principality, I can express my profound admiration for the courage and fortitude displayed by all. Each one of us is anxiously hoping for the advent of better times, and although we still have a long way to go there are signs that we are slowly but surely creeping back towards recovery."

There is a growing feeling that a special effort should be made to bring this protracted misery to an end."

MAY 14: Mr Lloyd George spent an hour and a half this morning (May 13) in further discussion of his plans with Cabinet Ministers. Contrary to expectation agriculture, and not roads and railways, was the question discussed. This is not without significance, because much time has already been spent upon Mr Lloyd George's proposals for land settlement.

There is no doubt whatever that the Government are prepared before they met Mr Lloyd George — to adopt some land settlement schemes, and the question now is how far they are prepared to go.

BIRTHDAYS

TODAY: Irving Berlin, composer, 97; Carla Bley, jazz pianist, composer, 47; Rhodes Boyson, minister of state for North Ireland, 60; Eric Burdon, rock, blues singer, 44; Salvador Dalí, surrealist painter, 81.

TOMORROW: Bart Bacharach, composer, songwriter, 56; Alan Ball, footballer, 40; Sir Lennor Berkeley, composer, 82; Colin Dowdswell, tennis player, 30; Ian Dury, rock singer, 43; Susan Hampshire, actress, 44; Nelly Messner and Wilfrid Hyde-White, actors, 69 and 82; Lord Kaldor, economist, 77.

MONDAY: Clive Barnes, critic, 68; Dame Daphne du Maurier, author, 73; Gill Evans, jazz pianist, arranger, orchestra conductor, 73; Jane Glover, conductor, 36.

TUESDAY: Francesca Annis, actress, 40; Dr Hastings Banda, president, Malawi, 50; Chay Blyth, yachtsman, 45.

WEDNESDAY: Constance Cummings, actress, 75; P. C. T. Davies, rugby, former England cricket captain, 50; Trial Lopez, singer, 40; Mike Oldfield, composer, 32.

THURSDAY: Bernard Braden, actor and author, 60; Sir Nicholas Goodison, chairman, Stock Exchange, 51; Woody Herman, clarinetist, bandleader, 72.

FRIDAY: Sugar Ray Leonard, world welter-weight boxing champion, 29; Birgit Nilsson, operatic soprano, 63.

A military live wire with peaceful intent

WE MET, appropriately, in the buffet at Slough Station. Tony Wilson is the co-ordinator at Electronics for Peace and highly critical of the military system in which he works. But it wasn't that sort of meet. Wilson was politely honoured by the electronics industry last week and Slough was a lot closer than Marshfield, near Bath, where he is based.

Electronics for Peace, founded in 1982, has a membership of 200, of which about 20 per cent work in the military complex. Wilson is a reliability engineer who has worked on the Chevaline programme to update Polaris, on the Farmington battlefields control system and on military space systems.

"What links us is a common concern about the militarisation of our industry and the effect on society and the planet," he said. "We cover a cross-section of views from straight pacifism to a hard line. I believe we need a strong defence, but not massive overkill."

He claims that British defence is ineffectual, expensive and dangerously non-accountable. "Britain deploys defence systems that are really in the development stage, with major errors built in. If there was an emergency, the system couldn't cope. We only just survived the Falklands."



WILSON: We need change.

Picture by Martin Argles

pedoes were taken to the Falklands, when it came to the crunch. Second World War vintage "iron fish" were dred. EFP recently produced a severe critique of the cruise missiles installed in Britain, drawn from material published in the US. He also claims that the battlefield control system used by Nato is so complex that

repairs are difficult even on exercises.

EFP's concern is not entirely altruistic. Wilson believes that the trend towards computer-aided design and manufacture will drastically reduce defence jobs in the next decade, while increasing the security apparatus of the state.

The preponderance of Min-

istry of Defence funding in research means that electronics engineers' choice of not working for the military is strictly limited. Wilson discovered this in 1980, when he turned down a long-term offer to work on Trident in order to go solo. Unable to earn enough, he returned.

His answer is to switch the balance of funding into com-

merce so that the military benefits from spin-offs rather than stifling the market. He would like to see cooperation at local level to use this expertise for more appropriate, non-military purposes.

"Isn't it seen as a subversive?" I did hear an MoD man suggest that I was a security risk and should be sacked, but in my opinion he's a bigger security risk than I am. It's the people who keep quiet about mistakes that are part of the problem. I don't propagandise. People at work know what I stand for."

"We need a change in the Official Secrets Act, which effectively stops people speaking out without great personal risk. Secrecy has not stopped Russia from keeping up with us. It has just kept the people of this country in the dark about the mistakes that are being made."

Last week the electronics industry named Wilson as personality of the year. A leading contender for the title was Sir Kenneth Corfield, chairman of STC. A current, it seems, is being reversed.

People is written by Stuart Wavell

Men of letters, men of action

THE LIFE OF ARTHUR RANSOME

Hugh Brogan

"The wonder is, from Mr Brogan's enthralling account, that Ransome ever got down to writing *Swallows and Amazons* at all." AN Wilson, *Sunday Telegraph* £4.95

ANOTHER PART OF THE WOOD

A Self Portrait

Kenneth Clark

"A stylish, dazzling work flecked with touches of learning and imagination, wit and malice." Kenneth Rose, *Sunday Telegraph* £4.95

HUGH WALPOLE

Rupert Hart-Davis

"A vivid and undemonstratively skilful portrait... it leaves a deep impression of Walpole's abounding enthusiasm for life and literature." *The Times* £6.95

ASQUITH

Stephen Koss

"The best biography of Asquith yet to be written and a book indispensable to every lover of political history." AJP Taylor, *New Statesman* £4.95

All titles illustrated

PAPERBACKS

Mr Reagan finally finds his axe

The importance of President Reagan's \$56 billion budget cuts for the fiscal 1986 — including a freeze on defence spending — is not whether they will survive intact when the House of Representatives gets hold of them (they almost certainly won't), but the fact that they have been made at all. Here is a President, at the end of an image-battering European tour, having to make a politically humiliating climbdown over defence spending. Instead of rising, as promised, by at least 6 per cent above the inflation rate in 1986 (following a "real" increase of 40 per cent over the past three years) defence spending will be limited to the rise in prices. In conditions more like Rookery Nook than Capitol Hill (with a hospitalised Republican wheeled in to make the vote 49/49 thereby enabling Vice-President Bush to jet in from Phoenix with a casting vote) the White House did a volte-face which will leave Mr Gorbachev bemused in the Geneva starting stalls.

The proposals now go to the Democrat-controlled House of Representatives where all 435 members are up for election next year. The Democrats will hardly contemplate putting their names to the other controversial item in the deficit package — the freeze (i.e. reduction in real terms) on increases in social security. They will remind the President that during last year's campaign he promised not to tamper with social security payments. Instead they will press for more tax increases while the President, doubtless, reminds them that during the same campaign he said that there would be tax increases "over my dead body".

What is significant is not what will eventually emerge from the Congress mincing machine, but that the Reagan Administration has reached an historic turning point, a doomsday realisation that the expanding US deficit (\$300 billion this year on optimistic budget projections) simply cannot go on.

The games are now over. The President knows he cannot have his deficit and eat it. The size of the prospective cuts (\$300 billion over three years) are big enough to satisfy most of the President's Wall Street critics. They are, though, in no sense ideal. The defence restraints are welcome and long overdue. But the freeze on social security payments is unjustified and unnecessary. A far better source of economies would have been the bottomless pit of corporate and personal tax privileges, which the Democrats may yet dig into.

Nevertheless, it is possible to see the start of a more virtuous spiral in which a falling US deficit triggers lower (real) interest rates, lessening the attraction of the currency to international investors which in turn brings down the value of the dollar and begins to restore the lost competitiveness of American industry. Developing countries will benefit from lower interest rates. But they will also suffer from a restoration — eventually — of US competitiveness and an end to America as an importers' paradise. Sadly, the opportunity for other strong industrialised nations to take over the "locomotive" role from the US was turned down at this month's economic summit in Bonn. Curing the American deficit is a necessary, but not a sufficient, condition for prolonging the world recovery. But if President Reagan can do such a dramatic U-turn on campaign promises, one may at least hope that Mrs Thatcher, who is beginning to be dogged by eerily similar bad luck over here, might yet get the message.

A day like any other day?

No less an observer than Karl Marx described the 1855 Sunday trading legislation as a coercive measure which restricted the liberty of ordinary people to make the purchases they want from the small shops of their choice. So, for once, Mrs Thatcher and Dr Marx are in total agreement. The Government has decided to place the full whipped weight of its Commons majority behind last year's Auld report recommendations to do away with restrictions on late night and Sunday shop opening. In the past, when the whips have been off, a cross party alliance of MPs has defeated such attempts at reform. Two years ago, on the last occasion, Mr Ray Whitney's private member's bill was trounced 205 to 106 by an alliance of sabbatarians, large retailers and USDAW, the shopworkers' union. But on Monday week, in spite of the backbench revolt promised yesterday by Mr Ivor Stanbrook and his friends, there should be enough Government votes to ensure that the principle of reform is upheld this time round. Legislation is expected to follow this autumn in the new parliamentary session.

None of the objectors, not even Mr Stanbrook, tries to defend every detail of the existing tangle of unenforced and unenforceable fine print that makes up our Sunday trading laws. What they are trying to preserve is an idealised British Sunday dedicated to God, the family lunch and the Home Service, which they see threatened by a trend towards football, booze and Game for a Laugh. And if that crusade means defending a mish-mash of legal contradictions that allow you to buy Playboy but not the Bible on Sundays, then that is a price worth paying. What they forget is that there should always be a choice. The reformers of this world from observing the kind of Sunday which they refer to. It is the opponents of change who are trying to prescribe how others shall behave, and they are using a model which is not only out of line with most people's preferred behaviour today, but one that always has been. The Sunday trading laws which Marx criticised in 1855 were imposed against enormous popular opposition at a time of declining church attendance. Sabbatarian legislation in the 1850s provoked some of the largest and most spontaneous demonstrations ever seen. Sunday trading itself, in the form of London's Petticoat Lane and Chub Row, for example, is one of the most tenacious aspects of working-class life. And the campaigns of the 1870s for the "free Sunday," for recreation and entertainment in parks and for the opening of museums, are part of a vigorous tradition of popular culture.

The abolition of Sunday trading restrictions would bring the law into line with the wishes of today's majority, as public opinion polls convincingly show. But abolition would also fit the reality of the way that people already live their lives. This isn't just a question of church, which only 10 per cent of people actually attend anyway. It is much more the reality of shopping itself that dictates change. As things stand, a third of all goods are bought on Saturdays and 60 per cent of working families do their personal food shopping on Saturdays too. Spreading that load onto Sundays would ease that burden. To pretend, as the defenders of the existing laws do, that liberalisation would change the British Sunday is simply not true. It is the law that is out of step, and the freeing of existing restrictions would be a common sense and non-coercive recognition of the quality of life for which most people have long ago opted.

LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

Why the Alliance accent must be on coalition

Sir — It is not surprising that leading officials of the Association of Liberal Councilors should seek (Guardian, May 4) to divert attention from their unwillingness to accept a share of responsibility on hung councils by reviving the Liberal-SDP merger issue. But it is surprising that the Guardian should join this fight from responsibility (Leader, May 7).

The issue posed by the Alliance is whether a sustained, structured, and effective coalition is possible in Britain in peacetime. If the Liberals and the SDP cannot work together in coalition when the present electoral system makes it the price of survival, how less likely is it that the Alliance can work in coalition with either Labour or the Conservatives in a hung parliament?

If coalition is not possible in Britain in peacetime and minority government leads to weakness and instability, we must devise an electoral system which enables the party preferred by the majority of voters to gain a governing majority. One way of doing this would be to have a directly elected executive with

powers similar to those of an American president. Another would be to have two elected Houses of Parliament. One could be a law-making body based on proportional representation, and the other responsible for the executive arm with control over finance.

This House could be elected by a system which enabled voters to rank parties in order of preference so that the party preferred by the majority of voters formed the government. The government would then have to function within a legislative framework created by a separate body which accurately reflected the different strands of opinion in society.

For the Alliance now to divert scarce energy into a revival of the merger debate would be an act of total irresponsibility. The issue the Guardian and the Alliance should both face is how an ordered local government be sustained in counties with no overall majority?

It is my fear that we shall see a serious disruption of local government, encouraged by the antics of the less responsible elements in the Liberal and Labour Parties, and that this will be a foretaste

of the damage that will occur as a consequence of a minority government in a future parliament.

Since we face a new electoral pattern with three or four parties each with a substantial body of support, we need to consider how we can adapt a constitution designed for two parties alternating in office so that government can function effectively within the new electoral geography.

Short-lived, weak, and unstable governments will mean the end of any hope of overcoming the causes of Britain's long-term economic decline. New thinking is required — now. — Yours Trevor Luesby, 55 Holland Road, Exmouth, Devon

Sir — Arising from your Leader, "Two into one should go" (May 6). May I make a suggestion?

I feel that it is wise not to press for an early decision on the leadership of the Alliance. However I agree with your proposition that a closer relationship between the two parties will be necessary in the run-up to the next general election if the

present Conservative Government is to be removed.

May I suggest that the Liberals and the Social Democrats make an equal sacrifice and join forces not as an Alliance party — an unattractive name — but as a plain Democratic Party. This would dispel any aura of laissez-faire or of state socialism, and would present a united party in an attempt to represent honestly the needs and ideas of the people of this country, voting eventually through proportional representation. — Nancy Salamana, Newport, Essex

Sir — Your Leader (May 7) asks when the marriage between the Liberal Party and the SDP will take place. The range of views across the Alliance is no more, and probably less, than the range in the Tory and Labour Parties. So there is no objection to a marriage except pride, which cometh before a general election fall.

The simple solution, which would avoid the present confusion for the electorate, is for SDP members to join the Liberal Party, that would be most likely to give an electoral success which in turn

would in turn would lead to electoral reform, when ex-SDP members could reconsider whether a separate party was desirable. — Trevor Brown, Newbury, Berkshire

Sir — Ivor Crewe's analysis of the county council elections (Agenda, May 6) — like that of most other analysts — is too static. There is not going to be a general election tomorrow and, as Mr Kinnoch should know, there cannot be one in a fortnight. What is certain is that the Alliance now has a large and visible presence on most county councils. Its share of the vote will not stay where it is, if it impresses the public with its behaviour and its policies in the limelight which is now assured. Its support is bound to increase. If not, it will fall back again.

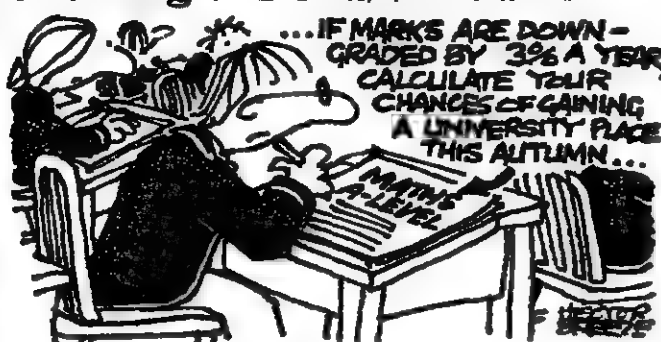
The point is that it will take only a relatively small further advance to start setting the applicability of the other two parties. Here in Hampshire, the Alliance scored under 23 per cent of the vote in 1981, and secured 6 per cent of the seats. This time we have 36 per cent of the vote and 30 per cent of the seats. Our vote is

up from 96,000 to 163,000 — only 25,000 behind the Tories. A mere transfer of another 4 per cent of the vote from the Tories would add another 14 seats to the present 31, and make us much the largest party.

Similarly at national level: with about 23 per cent support throughout the country, the figure in the South must be of the order of 33 per cent. At that level Conservative seats would start falling like ninespins, and the relationship between Alliance votes and seats would start coming closely into line — as it already has in Hampshire.

The target of 100 seats is quite realistic and, if that is attained, there is no way in which either of the other parties could secure an overall majority in the Commons. Indeed the bias in the electoral system could soon start working in our favour: it may not be long before Margaret Thatcher and Neil Kinnock join Francois Mitterrand in seeing the virtues of proportional representation — if only in limiting the damage to themselves. — Yours, etc, Harry R. Cole, Winchester, Hampshire

How the kangaroo courts are cheating our sixth-formers



Sir — D. J. Rowe (Letters, May 7) does not state whether he writes as a university admissions tutor or as an A-level examiner. In either case his reluctance to envisage changes in the A-level system is perfectly understandable (far more understandable than some of the figures he quotes).

As a polytechnic admissions officer, you would be more than willing to see the "considerable problems" of the system shared more equally with my university counterparts. The universities know nothing of the confusion caused to young people and their parents when predicted A or B grades turn mysteriously into Bs or Es, or of the mess this makes of the polytechnic admissions process. I doubt whether they care either.

There is a gross injustice in the A-level system in the one discussed by John Fairhall (Guardian, May 3). Those who mark the scripts have no control over what "adjustments" are made to the raw totals to supply the examining boards, which work in secrecy to produce "appropriate" distributions of grades each year.

As admissions officer for a BSE social studies degree course for the last three years, I have become over-familiar with the phenomenon of sixth-formers attaining D grades or worse when Bs or better were predicted. The sheer number of these under-achievers and the systematic way in which their grades have varied from teachers' predictions over this period persuade me that something is wrong.

As we now know that "only a handful of marks" separate a B grade from a D, or the difference between admission and rejection by a university, it is not hard to calculate the effect of standards of performance by candidates might well have secured them grade Bs in 1982, grade Ds in 1983, and grade Es or worse in 1984. If this is so, what is to become of the 1985 candidates?

I base this on the assumption that examining boards made downward adjustments of about three per cent in each of these years to the raw marks they received from examiners in order to come up with a preset target number of passes at each grade; or to put it another way, in order to maintain a "normal distribution" of

pass marks. As examiners are compelled to conform to the normal distribution in any case, this second stage can be a means of "padding" university

No one, at Stirling or in Normandy, died for this. The dead are silent; their silence is an accusation. — Sincerely, Mervyn Jones, 10 Waterside Place, London NW1

Sir — The 40th anniversary of the end of the Second World War has been a sombre and inadequate experience. I remember the occasion well — and how resolutely the Manchester Guardian reprints recall the period. I remember the shock of discovering the extermination camps, and later the power of the first atomic bomb.

With all these recollections, the inadequacy of our present appreciation is starkly evident. We discovered at the end of the war the possible extent of man's inhumanity to

man. It was an appalling revelation. We had lost our innocence, our self respect and our confidence, and more sadly, we have shown little urge to recover them. We accept, with passive indifference, the torture all over the world, and we discuss guilt and shame in selfish terms, notching up old accounts.

Young Germans, unborn when the Reich fell, deny any sense of guilt. But all humanity has a common shame which we show little wish to expiate, although somehow I believe we must. Instead we hear strident politicians of Left and Right, East and West, trotting out facile patter to a world still, I believe, stunned by the anguish of the century.

After such a tragedy, humility should be our strength; it is not. Empty promises add grossness to our shame. — Yours sincerely, (Dr) Crawford Webb, Alderley Edge, Cheshire

Sir — Even if, as Neil Kinnoch claims (Guardian, May 9), the recent Bonn summit was a "do-nothing summit," at least one encouraging sign came out of it: the refusal of the European governments to endorse President Reagan's phobia about Nicaragua.

However it needs more than a refusal to join in his mean-minded trade embargo if the rights of small sovereign states are to be protected against the bullying tactics of the big and powerful. In this week of justified remembrance of the defeat of Nazism, we should also remember that that conflict arose because of a failure to stand up to similar bullying of small nations by a powerful neighbour in 1938-9.

Far from being a communist tyrant, as President Reagan alleged, Nicaragua has developed a pluralist society, with the majority of the industry, agriculture, and commerce remaining in private ownership. Political expression is far more free than in most other Central American states and certainly is far more so than in some of those countries enjoying US "assistance".

I suppose, in one sense, the fears of the American fascists are justified. If real democratic freedom is allowed to break out in one Central American country, it could spread to others currently ruled by US backed totalitarian regimes of the right.

What is needed now is further pressure on our Government to ensure that Nicaragua receives fair treatment and can continue its progress of the last six years free from intimidation. — Yours faithfully, Ralph Gibson, 23 Lacey Road, Taverham, Norwich

Sir — The VE-day celebrations would not be complete without a sneering headline (Guardian, May 9)

Bickering that mars the VE memories

Sir — Now that this wretched VE-week is over, those of us who fought in that war can feel nothing but bitterness and shame.

It wasn't possible, for just one day, for the former allies to unite in a moment of sacrifice and achievement or to suspend the denigration and the name-calling. A US president who, it seems, too shortsighted for the war and a Soviet leader who was too young for it, use the occasion to warm up the hostilities between capitalist democracy and communism which did so much to bring on the second world war and now threaten us with a third.

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A sad setback in the campaign against medical misogyny

Sir — The suspension of Wendy Savage, senior lecturer in obstetrics and gynaecology at the London Hospital, presents a serious challenge to humanitarians inside and outside the medical profession who have been trying to change, with a more woman-centred approach, the dominant ethos of misogyny inside that specialty.

Nowhere is this more true than in City and Hackney health district, where St Bartholomew's Medical School, which shares a joint professorial unit of obstetrics and gynaecology with the London Medical School, is based.

In preparing a consumer

guide to maternity services in City and Hackney, we were concerned at the lack of consensus among consultant obstetricians on the medical management of pregnancy and childbirth. It was of even greater concern that asking for an investigation into why, for example, the forceps rate is three times higher in one unit than the other.

We have asked that obstetric practice be clinically audited and that the information be made available to women and their general practitioners. Women then can decide which consultant they want to be responsible for their care. A clinical audit would also ensure that

amount of time consultants spent overseeing policy implementation.

The different intervention rates between the two maternity units in our district is one serious outcome. For three years we have been asking for an investigation into why, for example, the forceps rate is three times higher in one unit than the other.

We have asked that obstetric practice be clinically audited and that the information be made available to women and their general practitioners. Women then can decide which consultant they want to be responsible for their care. A clinical audit would also ensure that

consultants had more knowledge of what was happening in their units.

Obstetrics has for too long introduced unproven techniques into practice and marginalized those who ask for proof that these are beneficial to women. Wendy Savage's suspension can be seen in this light. If the practices and records of her colleagues were examined with the same scrutiny that she has apparently experienced, a true comparison could be made.

Fedelmia Winkler, Helen Rosenthal, City and Hackney Community Health Council, London E2

Keeping fascism at bay

Sir — Peter Smith, senior assistant registrar at York University, describes its student union ban on racist speakers as a fundamental issue of principle about free speech.

York is not unlike most colleges where fascists are not granted union facilities to organise or perpetrate their racist fifth. Indeed the National Union of Students operates such a policy itself.

It is not for any assistant registrar to say how students should be treated, nor to stop the growth of fascist organisations. What is clear is that fascists have been unable to organise, agitate, and recruit in the colleges since they

were almost universally denied a platform to speak in the late 1970s.

In my own college in 1983 only four out of 800 students opposed the policy being maintained. It has been backed by all ethnic and Jewish student organisations.

We have the conditions, as shown in France, for fascist growth. Mass unemployment, leading to rising crime and social unrest, a general economic recession, and some people more concerned about the rights of fascists than about protecting their victims.

John Mann, National Organisation of Labour Students

Miscellany at large

Sir — As one of the councillors detained under the Prevention of Terrorism Act at Manchester airport (Guardian, May 7), I was intrigued by the comments of the Greater Manchester Police.

They say these were random checks, akin to Customs checks. This seems strange because when Customs checks Sheena Clarke, Clive Bette, Howard Knight, and myself flew out to Belfast we were the only Sheffield Labour councillors on the flight, and the only people stopped and questioned by the RUC Special Branch.

When Sheena Clarke flew back to Manchester she was the only Sheffield Labour

councillor on the flight and the only person detained under the Prevention of Terrorism Act. When I flew back I was the only Sheffield Labour councillor on my flight and the only person from that flight who was detained under the Prevention of Terrorism Act.

The only conclusion I can draw from this is that there is a random check on all Sheffield Labour councillors who visit Northern Ireland, and that the police believe in 100 per cent sampling. — Tony Dams, The Town Hall, Sheffield

Sir — You honour with a prominent place on your front page (May 9) the interesting news of a breakthrough Scottish group seeking better publicity for Toryism which will be named the Campaign for the Communication of Conservative Policies. One cannot help wondering, will the acronym by which this enterprising group will infamously be known remind Scottish Tories of absolutely nothing? Or is someone perpetrating an incongruously ingenious practical joke? — Yours, etc, Prof J Lawrence Gowing, University College London

Sir — Prime ministers may indeed be very forgettable people — but should a member, Ben Pimlott (Guardian Book, May 9), have forgotten quite so quickly that the first name of A. J. Balfour was Arthur, not Alfred, and that his successor as leader of the Unionists was Andrew, not Richard Boner Law? — Yours sincerely, Colin Buckley, Middleton, Manchester

Unthinkable thoughts for GCHQ managers

Sir — In the corridors of every block at GCHQ there are noticeboards, officially installed many years ago to carry trade union notices. These days, self-appointed management censors try to ensure that union notices do not remain for long, although literature put out by the newly formed departmental staff association is apparently acceptable.

Your excellent common-sense Leader, "The need to think again about GCHQ" (May 6) has been much remarked on and discussed here in Cheltenham, and a photocopy of it appeared in the centre of the otherwise empty notice board near my office on Wednesday lunchtime. It remained unmarked, throughout that afternoon and was still there the next morning when it caught



the eye of a management type on his way into work.

He stood there and scrutinised it. Would pass muster, or would it fail? No, I am sorry to report that your views were not considered fit reading for the staff at GCHQ, so down it came. (It

was replaced within moments of his retreating into his inner sanctum. Keep up the good work.) — Yours faithfully, Jeremy Windust, 31 Hales Road, Cheltenham, Gloucestershire

BACK TO THE FRAY: Bainbridge (left) and Melville, two veterans of the 1983 Lions tour of New Zealand.

JEREMY BATES, (22), from Solihull, has been ranked in the top 10 for the past four years but has yet to make his mark internationally. A double junior-tittle winner and former under-21 champion, his home successes in 1984 included victory at the Worcester event, in which there was strong opposition, and the runner-up prize at the national championships. "Our best satellite player for years," is how Hutchins describes him. His record of six finals in nine attempts this year bears this out. Already a King's Cup regular, he is now anxious to win a Davis Cup place.

NEXT WEEK the Lawn Tennis Association are to advertise a new post, that of executive director. Although the person appointed will be responsible to the 12-member board of management, the position is potentially the strongest yet created for the British game.

It was five years ago that a Ministerial Committee of Inquiry headed by John Smith, who on Thursday became chairman of the Sports Council, urged among its recommendations the ap-

RUGBY LEAGUE

Phil Shaw

Meninga takes final bow

The Sterling-Kenny spectacular will be a hard act to follow. But the First Division table insists that Hull Kingston Rovers and St Helens, who contest the Slalom Lager Premiership final at Elland Road, Leeds, this afternoon, are capable of maintaining the competition's reputation for producing rousing finales to the season.

Rovers, who became the first side ever to do the double of League and Premiership last May, return as champions. Saints finished second and are hailed by many as the most attractive side in the game. So today's match is the meeting of the top seeds.

The final brings into opposition the finest No 4s to follow. But the First Division table insists that Hull Kingston Rovers and St Helens, who contest the Slalom Lager Premiership final at Elland Road, Leeds, this afternoon, are capable of maintaining the competition's reputation for producing rousing finales to the season.

Rovers' left centre, Gary Prohm, is also due to fly out soon to play for New Zealand against the Kangaroos. Having scored 45 tries this season — only Ellery Hanley did better — he needs one today to break the 71-year-old record for a centre.

Prohm is a rugged character — not, perhaps, the classic silky centre, but as Alex Murphy put it, "he hasn't scored all those tries by hanging around looking elegant". Meninga often seems to be idling, but that sudden touch on the accelerator has brought him 25 touchdowns.

St Helens set a First Division points record, amassing 930 and scoring at least 26 in each of their last 10 games, but they remain vulnerable in defence. Rovers are a better balanced side, and have had a 10-day break since their semi-final scrape with Leeds.

Garvin Miller, Rovers' outstanding loose forward, misses the match because of a torn finger ligament. David Hall deputises, and must prevent his opponent, number 10, from finding space to use his handling skills. Otherwise, the champions, select from strength, with Gordon Smith edging Paul Harkin out at scrum-half, and Mark Broadhurst primed to display his consummate forward skills before going back for good to New Zealand.

Sean Day, the goal-kicking winger, is Saints' only doubt with a leg injury. If it's as close as their Challenge Cup tie, which Rovers won 8-3, his accuracy would be sorely missed.



BRIDGE

Rixi Markus

THE Sullivan Powell Challenge, which used to be known as the Sobranie Challenge, is the United Kingdom club championship for non-expert teams, and it attracts many newcomers to tournament bridge. Here is a deal from the 1985 Northern Area final on which the declarer had the kind of blind spot which has been noticed before among inexperienced players.

Dealer North; East-west vulnerable.

NORTH
♠ Q76
♥ A3
♦ QJ94
♣ 1076

EAST
♠ A52
♥ KQ
♦ KQJ
♣ KQ97

SOUTH
♠ K1054
♥ Q97
♦ 8
♣ QJ553

WEST
♠ K1054
♥ Q97
♦ 8
♣ QJ553

The bidding:
SOUTH WEST NORTH EAST
1H NE NT NE
2H NE NT NE
3H NE NT NE

West made the good lead of the three of clubs, won by East's queen, and drew two rounds of trumps with the ace and queen of diamonds. He then realised, rather belatedly, that he needed to establish the hearts. He led the jack of hearts, which brought the nine from West and the two from East. East won the heart continuation with the ace, but instead of giving his partner a heart ruff, he switched to a small spade. When West won with the king and played another club, declarer was in trouble. He ruffed the club and played a spade, but the defensive communications were intact: a heart ruff and the club were enough to seal South's fate.

South's best play on this hand is to play on hearts immediately after ruffing the second round of clubs. He can afford to lose a heart ruff, and his only problem is how to retain control of the hand after West's aggressive opening lead.

The Scottish final was won by Aberdeen, just 2 v.p. ahead of the Glasgow Bridge Centre.

© Rixi Markus

BOXING



CABLE: Up-and-down career

John Rodda

Another battle of Hastings

Jimmy Cable and Prince Rodney are two British fighters whose talents, by the current TV financial yardstick, deserve more rewards than have been theirs in the past couple of years. They have been due to meet for a long time, but chicken pox and promotional wrangles, among other events, have kept them apart until today.

This afternoon at the Pier Pavilion, Hastings, they will fight for the British light-middweight title in a Frank Warren promotion predictably billed as "The Second Battle of Hastings". The champion, Cable, will be televised and shown by ITV in World of Sport.

Cable knows, briefly, what life can be like at the top, for he has been involved in some courageous ups and downs. In his British title fight with Nick Wiltshe a couple of years ago, he showed much bravery and skill against an opponent with a heavier punch; he was toppled dramatically by Buster Drayton of the United States and then quickly won the European title setting off the four three times to stop Said Skouma of France.

That ought to have set him on course for some lucrative contests, but he immediately lost the title to George Steiniger of Germany. At 27 he still has plenty of fighting years left, but a lot of activity last year may well have taken its toll in the question of reflex action.

Rodney won this title in 1983 when he stopped Jimmy Batten in six rounds, but an injury in training kept him away from fighting for over a year. On his return last September, he stopped Cameron Liddiard in 10 hard rounds and has not boxed since. Too much of the wrong kind of fighting, Cable's problem, must be set against Rodney's comparative inactivity, and I suspect from that equation will emerge a new champion — Rodney.

one club would give him his game contract with very little difficulty.

The Northern final was won by the Hull Bridge Club. The vital importance of trump control is illustrated by this hand from the Scottish final.

Dealer South; game all.

NORTH
♠ Q4
♥ Q76
♦ A9
♣ KQJ

EAST
♠ A52
♥ KQ
♦ KQJ
♣ KQ97

SOUTH
♠ K1054
♥ Q97
♦ 8
♣ QJ553

WEST
♠ K1054
♥ Q97
♦ 8
♣ QJ553

The bidding:
SOUTH WEST NORTH EAST
1H NE NT NE
2H NE NT NE
3H NE NT NE

(1) Showing diamonds and a major suit.

West found the good lead of the three of clubs, won by East's queen, and drew two rounds of trumps with the ace and queen of diamonds. He then realised, rather belatedly, that he needed to establish the hearts. He led the jack of hearts, which brought the nine from West and the two from East. East won the heart continuation with the ace, but instead of giving his partner a heart ruff, he switched to a small spade. When West won with the king and played another club, declarer was in trouble. He ruffed the club and played a spade, but the defensive communications were intact: a heart ruff and the club were enough to seal South's fate.

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© Rixi Markus

Robert Armstrong looks at today's climax of the Second Division promotion contest

Frantic four wait on City

SOCCER

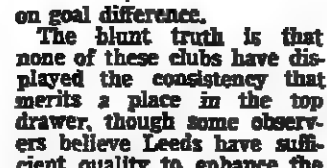
GROUCHO MARK'S remark that he "would not wish to join any club that would have me as a member" appears to have been taken too much to heart by Manchester City. Since defeating one of their promotion rivals, Portsmouth, a fortnight ago City have dithered over the task of making the final push that would take them back into the First Division after a two-year absence.

The consequence of City's goalless draw with Oldham and 3-2 defeat by Notts County on Monday is that a total of five clubs are involved today in the most intriguing climax to the promotion battle for years, with Oxford and Birmingham already promoted City are joined by Portsmouth, Blackburn, Brighton and Leeds in a final shoot-out for third place that could well hinge on goal difference.

The blunt truth is that none of these clubs have displayed the consistency that merits a place in the top drawer, though some observers believe Leeds have sufficient quality to enhance the First Division. City will go up if they beat Charlton at Maine Road but anything less than three points would open the way for any one of the pursuers to edge in from behind.

Billy McNeill's plans have been badly hit by a combination of suspension and injury which has deprived him of half the City team. Both his centre-back Reid and McCarty, are suspended while Baker, Wilson and his leading scorer, Smith, are all injured. Even Melrose and Tolmie, who came out of hospital on Monday after treatment for an inflamed ulcer, are only half-fit. In contrast Charlton, who won at Maine Road last season, are unchanged.

If City lose, then Portsmouth will return to the First Division for the first time since 1959 if they win



McNeill: Has lost half his team

at Huddersfield. The former England captain, Gerry Francis, who may replace the suspended Dillon, is in a squad of 12 despite having played only two games for Portsmouth. Stanley takes over from the injured full-back, Handman, while Huddersfield give late fitness tests to Cowling and Pugh.

"We are very relaxed and confident because the pressure is on Manchester City," said the Portsmouth manager, Alan Ball. "Whatever happens we intend to finish the season in style and the players are in a perfect frame of mind. Our 8,000 travelling fans will turn it into a home game for us and that will be fantastic."

Leeds will be unchanged for the seventh successive match for their visit to Birmingham, who could still take the Second Division championship in front of Oxford. The Yorkshire side travel in view of the Blues' unconvincing home record. Birmingham are again likely to be without Bremner, who has a hip injury, but their leading scorer, Geddis, is expected to return after missing two games with a thigh strain.

Like Leeds, Blackburn will also be unchanged for their game against relegated Wolverhampton at Ewood Park. "I know we are third favourites behind City and Portsmouth, but the red-hot favourites do not always win," said the Bovers' manager, Bobby Saxton, yesterday.

Benjamin Raphael at Hamar, Norway

Adams retains European title

JUDO

NEIL ADAMS yesterday recharged both his own and Britain's confidence by winning the European light-middweight title, for the third successive year, at the 25th national championships in Hamar, Norway.

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He looked a class above everyone else, just as he did when he won the world title in 1981. In the final he always dominated the tempo of the bout against Poland's former European champion, Waldemar Legien. A slick hand throw

was enough to give Adams the decisive knock-down and his fifth European gold medal. Adams had reached the final with one of the most technically versatile performances even he has produced in his 10 years of senior competition. His opponent, Vladimir Chestakov of the Soviet Union, had earlier arm-locked France's Michel Nowak, an Olympic bronze medal winner, but Adams attacked from the start.

He tried a swift stomach throw and then wheeled Chestakov to the mat with an immaculate hand throw. But the biggest surprise was to come: as the pair tumbled to the mat Adams feinted for his famous arm-lock. The Russian moved his arms to guard against it, but Adams swiftly whipped his legs round his opponent's neck and strangled him to submission.

"I've tried that in practice, but now it's coming off in international events," Adams said afterwards.

He had used this move successfully in his previous bout against the Yugoslavian Filip Lesak, whereas in his first round contest against Switzerland's Olivier Schaffner he has used his more familiar arm-lock.

It is the ability to widen the scope of techniques that marks a great champion, and Adams yesterday reinforced his claim to this distinction.

Liz Kahn in Paris

Young ones bow to Supergran

GOLF

In only their second tournament as professionals, Laura Davies, 21, Penny Grice, 22, were paired yesterday with the Australian professional, Stephenson, on the third round of the \$40,000 Tennessee Ladies Cup at St Cloud, Paris, and found out what it meant to be a professional worth a reputed \$30,000 in appearance money.

The 33-year-old Stephenson — or "Supergran," as Miss Grice irreverently calls her — took the lead from Davies by one shot on eight under par 214, having trailed overnight by six shots.

Stephenson's four-birdie 72, showed the class that comes from years of competing in the big league in the US. She made one two errors all day, missing the 11th green and going through at the 16th. Otherwise, it was an immaculate performance in spite of her tiredness.

At the end of the day, after a 41-hour round, as Stephenson held her final two-inch putt for par, an announcement was made that in 15 minutes' time she would be giving a clinic. The Australian may be expensive but she earns her money.

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CYCLING

Charles Burgess

Lucrative twist to Millar's tale

A landmark in British cycling will be reached tomorrow in Salamanca when, barring accident or disaster, Robert Millar, a frail-looking 26-year-old, who grew up in the back streets of Glasgow, will become the first Briton to win one of the world's big stage-races, the Tour of Spain.

After yesterday's individual time trial in and around Alcala de Henares, an industrial town near Madrid and the birthplace of Cervantes, there is nothing to stop him. Don Quixote was a pursuer of lost causes and, in the past, the English-speaking assaults on the glamorous European professional circuit have often seemed that way too. But now Millar is about to change all that.

Yesterday's 43-kilometre 17th stage represented the last race in the event for the second-placed Colombian rider Francisco Rodriguez to make up the 18 seconds overall time difference between him and the Scotsman, a margin that had been established last Sunday in Andorra.

In the event Rodriguez, riding two minutes in front of Millar, was able to cut only three seconds into that lead, finishing second with Millar third. The Spaniard, Pello Ruiz Cabestany, won the stage and remains the overall leader.

Millar and the rest of his Peugeot team should be able to protect the 10-second lead on today's 200 kilometre stage, which includes three tough mountain climbs, and tomorrow's flat 175-kilometre procession into Salamanca.

Millar, who stands just 5ft 7in tall and weighs permed hair, is an unlikely British hero. He has been blessed with the perfect frame for mountain climbing and the Tour of Spain is planned for the guests, preferably their own.

He took the leader's yellow jersey last weekend in the Pyrenees where he has twice tasted victory in stages of the Tour de France; his win there last year helped him to take the King of the Mountains title, for riders in international races are rewarded for an increase in their worth to advertisers. His income should now rise to over £100,000 a year.

His television commercials over the winter for Kellogg's Start cereal have probably done even more to push him into the public eye, and victory tomorrow will greatly increase his wealth.

For his 16-day ride around Spain he will win only £5,000 and by tradition that will be distributed among his teammates, the men who have worked hard in attempting to keep him fresh in the bunch, at least until the foot of the mountains when they have blossomed. His true bonuses will be earned from an enhanced contract, with Peugeot, from the larger fees he will be able to command for riding in international races, and from an increase in his worth to advertisers. His income should now rise to over £100,000 a year.

Pat Rowley at Mulheim

England roused by a revenge mission

HOCKEY

England men's team will not need a lot of motivation before they play West Germany, the Olympic silver medal-winners, at Mulheim Ruhr tomorrow. Not because the match has something to do with the 40th anniversary of VE-Day, but because it was Germany who denied many of the England players a chance of a gold medal at Los Angeles last summer. Germany's 1-0 victory in the semi-final left Great Britain to salvage the bronze.

It was Germany, too, who denied England a semi-final place in the 1983 European Cup. It is an important match for England, who appear from a couple of internationals in Ireland a year ago, have not played since the European Cup. It is England's first game in the build-up to next year's World Cup at Wembley, and the first of 11 matches against sides ranked in the world's top six.

The England team is of similar strength to the Great Britain side that won the Olympic bronze. Like Great Britain, they are now playing the same 5-2 formation. Robert Millar, the players likely to be in the starting line-up, were in the Olympic team. The other four are Hurst, Sherward, Faulkner and Cliff.

It has been said that both England and Germany would not be as formidable without their world class goalkeepers, Ian Taylor. But John Hurst would be the first choice for most national teams and has a rare chance to prove his prowess, with Taylor injured.

On the form shown in recent training weekends, England seem likely to field a different right wing combination to Great Britain, Cliff and Sherward, having gained preference to Shaw and Leman.

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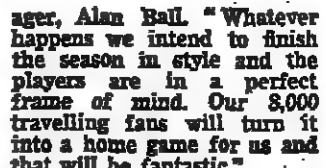
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Williams: Resigned as manager

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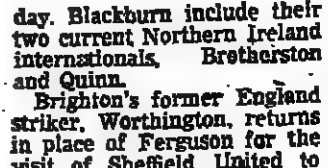
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When Adams tied on his black belt yesterday he knew that many people were expecting his defeat in the Olympic final to mark the start of a decline in his eminence. He was also aware that Britain's first three entries in these championships had also not mustered a win between them in their five fights.

Throughout his career the 26-year-old Adams has seemed at his best when he is not the outstanding favourite for the gold medals: he flourishes when he is just one of the fabled competitors. Yesterday reinforced that opinion. Competing in a particularly strong category — West Germany's Olympic champion, Franz Wenzel, failed to finish in the top three — Adams fought with his most prodigious savagery.

He looked a class above everyone else, just as he did when he won the world title in 1981. In the final he always dominated the tempo of the bout against Poland's former European champion, Waldemar Legien. A slick hand throw

was enough to give Adams the decisive knock-down and his fifth European gold medal. Adams had reached the final with one of the most technically versatile performances even he has produced in his 10 years of senior competition. His opponent, Vladimir Chestakov of the Soviet Union, had earlier arm-locked France's Michel Nowak, an Olympic bronze medal winner, but Adams attacked from the start.

He tried a swift stomach throw and then wheeled Chestakov to the mat with an immaculate hand throw. But the biggest surprise was to come: as the pair tumbled to the mat Adams feinted for his famous arm-lock. The Russian moved his arms to guard against it, but Adams swiftly whipped his legs round his opponent's neck and strangled him to submission.

"I've tried that in practice, but now it's coming off in international events," Adams said afterwards.

He had used this move successfully in his previous bout against the Yugoslavian Filip Lesak, whereas in his first round contest against Switzerland's Olivier Schaffner he has used his more familiar arm-lock.

It is the ability to widen the scope of techniques that marks a great champion, and Adams yesterday reinforced his claim to this distinction.

Liz Kahn in Paris

Young ones bow to Supergran

GOLF

In only their second tournament as professionals, Laura Davies, 21, Penny Grice, 22, were paired yesterday with the Australian professional, Stephenson, on the third round of the \$40,000 Tennessee Ladies Cup at St Cloud, Paris, and found out what it meant to be a professional worth a reputed \$30,000 in appearance money.

The 33-year-old Stephenson — or "Supergran," as Miss Grice irreverently

WEEKEND SPORT: THREE

SPORT IN BRIEF

England's shining spirit

HOCKEY: England's young and untied women's squad took on the powerful Olympic silver medal winners West Germany yesterday, narrowly losing 2-2, writes Janet Ruff at Mülheim. The reputations of several England youngsters were enhanced, with Burrows outstanding in goal and Gocher, a second half substitute, at last showing her true form.

England made a sensational start with a second minute goal, Bennett's inch perfect pass splitting the German defence through Kim Gordon. But the joy was short lived as Gaby Appel scored the winner.

EQUESTRIANISM: Sue Pountney, 29, from Uttoxeter, became one of the few riders to record a second success in the BSJA Women's National Championship, now sponsored by Toshiba, with a repeat of her 1983 victory on Ned Kelly VI at the Royal Windsor Horse Show yesterday, writes John Kerr. Only seven from 38 reached the jump-off and, at first, Janet Hunter and Lissamarrow looked like giving Scotland a rare success with a fast and faultless round. But Miss Pountney got a great gallop from her 13-year-old for the only other clear, with almost half a second to spare.

TENNIS: Leighton Alfred of Wales and Susie Mair, of Scotland, both went out of the LTA spring tennis circuit at Bournemouth yesterday. Miss Mair was dismissed with little effort 6-1, 6-0 by Diane van Rensburg, of South Africa, but Alfred held out for two hours 35 minutes before going down 7-6, 4-6, 7-5 to Peter Johnston, of Australia.

Johnston now faces in today's final Peter Lundgren, of Sweden, who beat Simon Youl of Australia, 7-5, 1-6, 7-5, while Miss van Rensburg's opponent in the final is Barbara Romano, of Italy, who beat Elina Reinach, of South Africa, 7-6, 6-3.

ATHLETICS: Craig Virgin, John Tuttle, and Paul Cummings will lead an American challenge for the second Gaymer's 10 kilometre inter-city series road race at Cardiff tomorrow, writes Stephen Bierley. Tuttle was third in the opening race in Glasgow last Sunday behind Britain's Dave Clark and John Richardson who are both expected to run again.

Todd Bennett, the European indoor 400 metres champion from Southampton, goes for the hat-trick when he competes for his home town in the GB's British Athletics Club (BAC) season match at Enfield today. Bennett competes in the 100 and 200 metres and a 4 x 400 metres relay.

SAILING: Chris Law won all his five races on the first day of the British Open match-racing championship for the Royal Lytham St Annes Regatta, writes Bob Fisher. Gary Johnson of the US will join him on five wins in his protest against his countryman Tim Stern from the first round.

RUGBY LEAGUE: The British Amateur Rugby Association's next year may be extended to include matches in Tonga and the Cook Islands. Tonga's King Tufoa Ahau Tupou IV is reported to be keen to support the series of the Sydney club St George. A decision on the invitation is expected next week.

Evening racing
STRATFORD
6.00 (2m) 1. BURNSTREY LADY (5-11) 2. KILNICK (5-11) 3. KILNICK (5-11) 4. KILNICK (5-11) 5. KILNICK (5-11) 6. KILNICK (5-11) 7. KILNICK (5-11) 8. KILNICK (5-11) 9. KILNICK (5-11) 10. KILNICK (5-11) 11. KILNICK (5-11) 12. KILNICK (5-11) 13. KILNICK (5-11) 14. KILNICK (5-11) 15. KILNICK (5-11) 16. KILNICK (5-11) 17. KILNICK (5-11) 18. KILNICK (5-11) 19. KILNICK (5-11) 20. KILNICK (5-11) 21. KILNICK (5-11) 22. KILNICK (5-11) 23. KILNICK (5-11) 24. KILNICK (5-11) 25. KILNICK (5-11) 26. KILNICK (5-11) 27. KILNICK (5-11) 28. KILNICK (5-11) 29. KILNICK (5-11) 30. KILNICK (5-11) 31. KILNICK (5-11) 32. KILNICK (5-11) 33. KILNICK (5-11) 34. KILNICK (5-11) 35. KILNICK (5-11) 36. KILNICK (5-11) 37. KILNICK (5-11) 38. KILNICK (5-11) 39. KILNICK (5-11) 40. KILNICK (5-11) 41. KILNICK (5-11) 42. KILNICK (5-11) 43. KILNICK (5-11) 44. KILNICK (5-11) 45. KILNICK (5-11) 46. KILNICK (5-11) 47. KILNICK (5-11) 48. KILNICK (5-11) 49. KILNICK (5-11) 50. KILNICK (5-11) 51. KILNICK (5-11) 52. KILNICK (5-11) 53. 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LINGFIELD PARK

2 00 All Agreed
2 00 Silver Dollar
3 00 Slip Anchor
3 30 Aylesfield (nb)
4 00 Eagling
4 30 Fayruz
5 00 Eccles Tree

JACKPOT AND PLACEPOT: FIRST SIX RACES
DRAW: HIGH numbers best up to 1st, LOW numbers may be best on soft ground
* DENOTES BLINDINGS

BBC-1

2 00-WILLIAM HILL 'FIRST FOUR PRICES' HANDICAP: 6f; 54.234 (20 runners)
104 (15) 0220-00 MAZAI (D) (F. Salinas) P. Cole 4-9-2
105 (10) 0300-00 ALL AGREED (D) (J. Waterman) J. Winter 4-8-6
106 (10) 0300-00 YOUNG INCA (D) (J. Waterman) J. Winter 4-8-6
107 (10) 0300-00 YOUNG INCA (D) (J. Waterman) J. Winter 4-8-6
108 (10) 0300-00 YOUNG INCA (D) (J. Waterman) J. Winter 4-8-6
109 (10) 0300-00 YOUNG INCA (D) (J. Waterman) J. Winter 4-8-6
110 (10) 0300-00 YOUNG INCA (D) (J. Waterman) J. Winter 4-8-6
111 (10) 0300-00 YOUNG INCA (D) (J. Waterman) J. Winter 4-8-6
112 (10) 0300-00 YOUNG INCA (D) (J. Waterman) J. Winter 4-8-6
113 (10) 0300-00 YOUNG INCA (D) (J. Waterman) J. Winter 4-8-6
114 (10) 0300-00 YOUNG INCA (D) (J. Waterman) J. Winter 4-8-6
115 (10) 0300-00 YOUNG INCA (D) (J. Waterman) J. Winter 4-8-6
116 (10) 0300-00 YOUNG INCA (D) (J. Waterman) J. Winter 4-8-6
117 (10) 0300-00 YOUNG INCA (D) (J. Waterman) J. Winter 4-8-6
118 (10) 0300-00 YOUNG INCA (D) (J. Waterman) J. Winter 4-8-6
119 (10) 0300-00 YOUNG INCA (D) (J. Waterman) J. Winter 4-8-6
120 (10) 0300-00 YOUNG INCA (D) (J. Waterman) J. Winter 4-8-6

BBC-1

2 00-MARLEY TITAN TITAN TRAIL: 6f; 54.234 (20 runners)
104 (15) 0220-00 MAZAI (D) (F. Salinas) P. Cole 4-9-2
105 (10) 0300-00 ALL AGREED (D) (J. Waterman) J. Winter 4-8-6
106 (10) 0300-00 YOUNG INCA (D) (J. Waterman) J. Winter 4-8-6
107 (10) 0300-00 YOUNG INCA (D) (J. Waterman) J. Winter 4-8-6
108 (10) 0300-00 YOUNG INCA (D) (J. Waterman) J. Winter 4-8-6
109 (10) 0300-00 YOUNG INCA (D) (J. Waterman) J. Winter 4-8-6
110 (10) 0300-00 YOUNG INCA (D) (J. Waterman) J. Winter 4-8-6
111 (10) 0300-00 YOUNG INCA (D) (J. Waterman) J. Winter 4-8-6
112 (10) 0300-00 YOUNG INCA (D) (J. Waterman) J. Winter 4-8-6
113 (10) 0300-00 YOUNG INCA (D) (J. Waterman) J. Winter 4-8-6
114 (10) 0300-00 YOUNG INCA (D) (J. Waterman) J. Winter 4-8-6
115 (10) 0300-00 YOUNG INCA (D) (J. Waterman) J. Winter 4-8-6
116 (10) 0300-00 YOUNG INCA (D) (J. Waterman) J. Winter 4-8-6
117 (10) 0300-00 YOUNG INCA (D) (J. Waterman) J. Winter 4-8-6
118 (10) 0300-00 YOUNG INCA (D) (J. Waterman) J. Winter 4-8-6
119 (10) 0300-00 YOUNG INCA (D) (J. Waterman) J. Winter 4-8-6
120 (10) 0300-00 YOUNG INCA (D) (J. Waterman) J. Winter 4-8-6

BBC-1

2 00-HIGHLAND SPINNING DERBY TRAIL: 6f; 54.234 (20 runners)
104 (15) 0220-00 MAZAI (D) (F. Salinas) P. Cole 4-9-2
105 (10) 0300-00 ALL AGREED (D) (J. Waterman) J. Winter 4-8-6
106 (10) 0300-00 YOUNG INCA (D) (J. Waterman) J. Winter 4-8-6
107 (10) 0300-00 YOUNG INCA (D) (J. Waterman) J. Winter 4-8-6
108 (10) 0300-00 YOUNG INCA (D) (J. Waterman) J. Winter 4-8-6
109 (10) 0300-00 YOUNG INCA (D) (J. Waterman) J. Winter 4-8-6
110 (10) 0300-00 YOUNG INCA (D) (J. Waterman) J. Winter 4-8-6
111 (10) 0300-00 YOUNG INCA (D) (J. Waterman) J. Winter 4-8-6
112 (10) 0300-00 YOUNG INCA (D) (J. Waterman) J. Winter 4-8-6
113 (10) 0300-00 YOUNG INCA (D) (J. Waterman) J. Winter 4-8-6
114 (10) 0300-00 YOUNG INCA (D) (J. Waterman) J. Winter 4-8-6
115 (10) 0300-00 YOUNG INCA (D) (J. Waterman) J. Winter 4-8-6
116 (10) 0300-00 YOUNG INCA (D) (J. Waterman) J. Winter 4-8-6
117 (10) 0300-00 YOUNG INCA (D) (J. Waterman) J. Winter 4-8-6
118 (10) 0300-00 YOUNG INCA (D) (J. Waterman) J. Winter 4-8-6
119 (10) 0300-00 YOUNG INCA (D) (J. Waterman) J. Winter 4-8-6
120 (10) 0300-00 YOUNG INCA (D) (J. Waterman) J. Winter 4-8-6

BBC-1

2 00-WILLIAMS' DE BROS STAKES (LIMITED HANDICAP): 11m; 58.024 (7 runners)
104 (15) 0220-00 MAZAI (D) (F. Salinas) P. Cole 4-9-2
105 (10) 0300-00 ALL AGREED (D) (J. Waterman) J. Winter 4-8-6
106 (10) 0300-00 YOUNG INCA (D) (J. Waterman) J. Winter 4-8-6
107 (10) 0300-00 YOUNG INCA (D) (J. Waterman) J. Winter 4-8-6
108 (10) 0300-00 YOUNG INCA (D) (J. Waterman) J. Winter 4-8-6
109 (10) 0300-00 YOUNG INCA (D) (J. Waterman) J. Winter 4-8-6
110 (10) 0300-00 YOUNG INCA (D) (J. Waterman) J. Winter 4-8-6
111 (10) 0300-00 YOUNG INCA (D) (J. Waterman) J. Winter 4-8-6
112 (10) 0300-00 YOUNG INCA (D) (J. Waterman) J. Winter 4-8-6
113 (10) 0300-00 YOUNG INCA (D) (J. Waterman) J. Winter 4-8-6
114 (10) 0300-00 YOUNG INCA (D) (J. Waterman) J. Winter 4-8-6
115 (10) 0300-00 YOUNG INCA (D) (J. Waterman) J. Winter 4-8-6
116 (10) 0300-00 YOUNG INCA (D) (J. Waterman) J. Winter 4-8-6
117 (10) 0300-00 YOUNG INCA (D) (J. Waterman) J. Winter 4-8-6
118 (10) 0300-00 YOUNG INCA (D) (J. Waterman) J. Winter 4-8-6
119 (10) 0300-00 YOUNG INCA (D) (J. Waterman) J. Winter 4-8-6
120 (10) 0300-00 YOUNG INCA (D) (J. Waterman) J. Winter 4-8-6

BBC-1

2 00-MIDWAY SUN STAKES: 3-Y-0; 11m; 58.024 (7 runners)
104 (15) 0220-00 MAZAI (D) (F. Salinas) P. Cole 4-9-2
105 (10) 0300-00 ALL AGREED (D) (J. Waterman) J. Winter 4-8-6
106 (10) 0300-00 YOUNG INCA (D) (J. Waterman) J. Winter 4-8-6
107 (10) 0300-00 YOUNG INCA (D) (J. Waterman) J. Winter 4-8-6
108 (10) 0300-00 YOUNG INCA (D) (J. Waterman) J. Winter 4-8-6
109 (10) 0300-00 YOUNG INCA (D) (J. Waterman) J. Winter 4-8-6
110 (10) 0300-00 YOUNG INCA (D) (J. Waterman) J. Winter 4-8-6
111 (10) 0300-00 YOUNG INCA (D) (J. Waterman) J. Winter 4-8-6
112 (10) 0300-00 YOUNG INCA (D) (J. Waterman) J. Winter 4-8-6
113 (10) 0300-00 YOUNG INCA (D) (J. Waterman) J. Winter 4-8-6
114 (10) 0300-00 YOUNG INCA (D) (J. Waterman) J. Winter 4-8-6
115 (10) 0300-00 YOUNG INCA (D) (J. Waterman) J. Winter 4-8-6
116 (10) 0300-00 YOUNG INCA (D) (J. Waterman) J. Winter 4-8-6
117 (10) 0300-00 YOUNG INCA (D) (J. Waterman) J. Winter 4-8-6
118 (10) 0300-00 YOUNG INCA (D) (J. Waterman) J. Winter 4-8-6
119 (10) 0300-00 YOUNG INCA (D) (J. Waterman) J. Winter 4-8-6
120 (10) 0300-00 YOUNG INCA (D) (J. Waterman) J. Winter 4-8-6

BBC-1

2 00-TULYAR STAKES: 3-Y-0; 11m; 58.024 (7 runners)
104 (15) 0220-00 MAZAI (D) (F. Salinas) P. Cole 4-9-2
105 (10) 0300-00 ALL AGREED (D) (J. Waterman) J. Winter 4-8-6
106 (10) 0300-00 YOUNG INCA (D) (J. Waterman) J. Winter 4-8-6
107 (10) 0300-00 YOUNG INCA (D) (J. Waterman) J. Winter 4-8-6
108 (10) 0300-00 YOUNG INCA (D) (J. Waterman) J. Winter 4-8-6
109 (10) 0300-00 YOUNG INCA (D) (J. Waterman) J. Winter 4-8-6
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116 (10) 0300-00 YOUNG INCA (D) (J. Waterman) J. Winter 4-8-6
117 (10) 0300-00 YOUNG INCA (D) (J. Waterman) J. Winter 4-8-6
118 (10) 0300-00 YOUNG INCA (D) (J. Waterman) J. Winter 4-8-6
119 (10) 0300-00 YOUNG INCA (D) (J. Waterman) J. Winter 4-8-6
120 (10) 0300-00 YOUNG INCA (D) (J. Waterman) J. Winter 4-8-6

BBC-1

2 00-FLUEN HANDICAP: 3-Y-0; 11m; 58.024 (7 runners)
104 (15) 0220-00 MAZAI (D) (F. Salinas) P. Cole 4-9-2
105 (10) 0300-00 ALL AGREED (D) (J. Waterman) J. Winter 4-8-6
106 (10) 0300-00 YOUNG INCA (D) (J. Waterman) J. Winter 4-8-6
107 (10) 0300-00 YOUNG INCA (D) (J. Waterman) J. Winter 4-8-6
108 (10) 0300-00 YOUNG INCA (D) (J. Waterman) J. Winter 4-8-6
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118 (10) 0300-00 YOUNG INCA (D) (J. Waterman) J. Winter 4-8-6
119 (10) 0300-00 YOUNG INCA (D) (J. Waterman) J. Winter 4-8-6
120 (10) 0300-00 YOUNG INCA (D) (J. Waterman) J. Winter 4-8-6

BBC-1

2 00-NEEDHAM HANDICAP: 3-Y-0; 11m; 58.024 (7 runners)
104 (15) 0220-00 MAZAI (D) (F. Salinas) P. Cole 4-9-2
105 (10) 0300-00 ALL AGREED (D) (J. Waterman) J. Winter 4-8-6
106 (10) 0300-00 YOUNG INCA (D) (J. Waterman) J. Winter 4-8-6
107 (10) 0300-00 YOUNG INCA (D) (J. Waterman) J. Winter 4-8-6
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120 (10) 0300-00 YOUNG INCA (D) (J. Waterman) J. Winter 4-8-6

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2 00-NEEDHAM HANDICAP: 3-Y-0; 11m; 58.024 (7 runners)
104 (15) 0220-00 MAZAI (D) (F. Salinas) P. Cole 4-9-2
105 (10) 0300-00 ALL AGREED (D) (J. Waterman) J. Winter 4-8-6
106 (10) 0300-00 YOUNG INCA (D) (J. Waterman) J. Winter 4-8-6
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BBC-1

2 00-NEEDHAM HANDICAP: 3-Y-0; 11m; 58.024 (7 runners)
104 (15) 0220-00 MAZAI (D) (F. Salinas) P. Cole 4-9-2
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Khozaam suited by going in Derby trial

Richard Baerlein

The Highland Spring Derby Trial and the Marley Roof Trial Oaks Trial will be run at Lingfield this afternoon on ground far harder than anything experienced by runners at any stage so far this season.

Yesterday 13 declared runners were withdrawn at Lingfield on account of the ground and the four absentees from a declared field of eight for the Hawthorn Stakes included Almashammur and Phardante, the two top-rated entries.

Paul Cole has decided not to run Reach in today's Derby trial but to adhere to his original intention throughout the winter of going for the Mecca-Dante at York on Wednesday. Barry Hills has also settled for the PRIX Lupin - his original choice - for Royal Harmony, fourth in the 2,000 Guineas.

The Lupin these days is more like the Derby itself rather than a trial while the travelling can sometimes take out just as much from a horse as the race itself. I am sure backers of Royal Harmony will be glad of the change of plan.

The addition of Royal Harmony and Reach will greatly strengthen the Mecca-Dante, which already includes Michael Smith's Las Arcs and Henry Cecil-trained Vin de France.

In today's trial Cecil saddles Slip Anchor, runaway winner of the Hawthorn Stakes on opening day of the Guineas meeting at Newmarket.

Slip Anchor, whose sire, Shirley Heights, won the first Hawthorn Stakes before going on to win the Derby, may have been flattered by the verdict because the favourite, Esquire, seemed unable to set on the ground, which was becoming fast.

Previously he had been third to Las Arcs and Esquire over one mile and a furlong at the Craven meeting on the softer ground. Slip Anchor recorded a fast time when winning over one and a quarter miles, but today's one and a half miles should suit him far better.

Lester Pigott rides Lord Grundy, the horse responsible for Walter Swinburn's 21-day suspension, but his form does not read up to that of Slip Anchor.

Khozaam is the problem horse. I thought he showed classic possibilities last season when he ran some first class races and was only beaten once - a head by Reach in the Royal Lodge Stakes at Ascot.

His first and only bad race came on his seasonable debut as a three-year-old when he finished last in the Rival Vespene Blue Riband Trial Stakes at Epsom. Neither Peter Walwyn nor Joe Mercer has been able to explain that run, but the Lambourn horses were all very backward at the time. They have come on a ton

since, as Barry Hills proved this week at Chester.

Discussing the colt at Chester, Walwyn said he could not be pleased with him and he did not mind how hard the ground was. That really is something in Khozaam's favour.

"I still think he is a good horse and will prove it on Saturday," said Walwyn. "I backed him at 33-1, I share the trainer's hopes and because of the ground I take a chance that it will suit him better than it will Slip Anchor. Their present Derby prices are 16-1 Slip Anchor and 33-1 Khozaam."

The Marley Roof Trial Oaks Trial, unlike the Derby trial, is not confined to only two chances. For the most part the allies have been running on soft, even heavy, ground. The Queen's filly Silver Dollar, backed from 33-1 to 20-1 for the Gold Seal Oaks two days ago, is the probable favourite.

Lake Slip Anchor, her sire is Shirley Heights and her only victory last season was over six furlongs on firm ground. She will not be beaten for lack of stamina.

Goody Blake, Grace Note and the course winner Miss Never Hyde have all won their only races this season, but the ground was heavy on every occasion. Of the three, Grace Note makes me appal and the opening of her sire, Top Ville, generally go on the firm. Ian Balding has engaged Lester Pigott to ride.

John Dunlop has a promising filly in Kilinski, far from disgraced when fourth behind Michael Smith's Las Arcs on her seasonal debut.

Pretty Pol was just beaten by her stable companion, Capo di Monte, at Newmarket, but Silver Dollar looks the winner.

Promised Isle was sweating heavily as he went to the post for the City and Suburban



Peter Walwyn - Khozaam a good horse

Handicap at Epsom and probably needed the outing. He must be given another chance in today's Williams de Broe Handicap. Bruce Hobbs, whose 12-1 chance Loch Hour was awarded the Hever Castle Stud Stakes yesterday on the qualification of Mummy's Secret, can win the Mid Day Sun Stakes with Jaggers. He has run quite well in both his races to date.

Canif, a course and distance winner, will be named the 11-2 favourite in the morning at Lingfield for the "First for Prices" Handicap. He was caught on the post by Brig Chop on his seasonal debut at Newmarket.

Hay Street should credit Jocelyn Reavey with the Thirsk Hunt cup after running third to Neepes and Milk Heart at Leicester. I also like Orchid Dancer in spite of a 6lb penalty in the Mail On Sunday Three-Year-Old Handicap.

The best bets at Bath should be Wallah Wadd and Making Tracks.

Chris Hawkins sums up the races on TV Romoss, of course

1.45 (6f): MENDICK ADVENTURE is a winner without a penalty, having been disqualified for interference after beating Chaplin's Club and Sharlie's Wimp (winner yesterday) in a 21-runner handicap at Ripon last month. His stable is in form and, being nicely drawn here, he should be hard to beat. Playtex is the obvious third.

2.15 (7f): FOOLISH TOUCH ran on well when fourth to Ho Mi Chinn over six furlongs at Pontefract last time. He should be a half length behind subsequent Carlisle winner Orchid Dancer and meets that rival on 6lb better terms now. JUST A BIT has won twice over the course, but each time in selling company.

2.45 (1m): ROMOSS is a standing dish at this track and is going for his sixth course and distance victory. He won this race last year and has 1lb less to carry. He was just over three lengths behind Sully Boy here last month but missed the break. Hay Street can be fancied on his close third to Neepes and Milk Heart at Leicester.

3.0 (11m): ALL AGREED finished fast when second to Tryon Chan at Sandown over five furlongs last month. He should be suited by the extra 220 yards today.

3.30 (11m): SILVER DOLLAR is by Shirley Heights and should relish this mile and a half. She had high class form as a juvenile, beating Al Saharti at Ascot and finishing a close third to Bella Colera at Goodwood.

3.50 (11m): AYLESFIELD failed by only a short-head to catch Maldoror at Newmarket last week and deserves a change of fortune. He likes fast ground and his stable is in form.

Results

LINGFIELD

DIARY

SECURITY at the Scottish Text Conference in Perth grew more manic as the week progressed. One conspicuous feature of it was that the private security firm hired by Central Office made a point of frisking even the policemen on duty in the hall. Another was that they detained a fresh-faced young delegate, who turned up in the Station Hotel without a conference pass for nearly 15 minutes while waiting in Ann Hall, the Scottish Tories' secretary, to identify him. Yes, she confirmed, this is Mr John Selwyn Gummer.

"SEVENTY-FOUR per cent say NO"—GLC poster. Added underneath in London EC1: "That's because 28 per cent got pregnant."

THE Police Federation is forever striving to make a policeman's lot a happier one. Thus Cumbria and West Midlands delegates to the forthcoming federation conference are seeking an extra allowance for handling of fingerprinting "badly decomposed, mutilated or burnt bodies." Dorset delegates are not so sure. They wish to delete the word "badly." They may have a point.

LAST MONTH Denis Healey moved up in Fonthouse. This month it's Captain Mark Phillips—the man and his car. "Cars," we learn, "are his second love." No, horses are the first, but "his good lady" likes cars. "We both went to Silverstone," Capt Phillips tells the porno mag. "She covered 35 laps and enjoyed herself very much."

THE National Union of Students, pondering how best to contribute to the Ethiopian Famine Appeal, has decided to clear out its basement of stacks of old tee-shirts from past campaigns and pack them out to the famine soup. One must forgive any wilderness as the recipients pull on the garments proclaiming: "Support the Miners!" and "Jobs for Youth. Give us a Future!"

FLUTTERERS will be cheered in London's odds on Mrs T departing as Prime Minister—5-1 says she goes before the end of this year and 3-1 by the end of next year.

TERRY DICKS, MP for Hays and Haxton, takes a strong line on football hooliganism. So he will be watching some interest in the forthcoming campaign involving his fellow Billingham Tory councillor, Mr Roger Johns. Mr Johns was one of two Tottenham fans arrested by Newcastle police and charged with a breach of public order following a "hooligan" brawl between Newcastle United, he appears in court on May 28.

BLACK sections are, of course, a matter of principle even if the penalties for joining them are severe. All the same, Deputy GLC has no plans to form a local black section just yet. Getting rid of Mr John Silkin, explains a mole, is also a matter of principle.

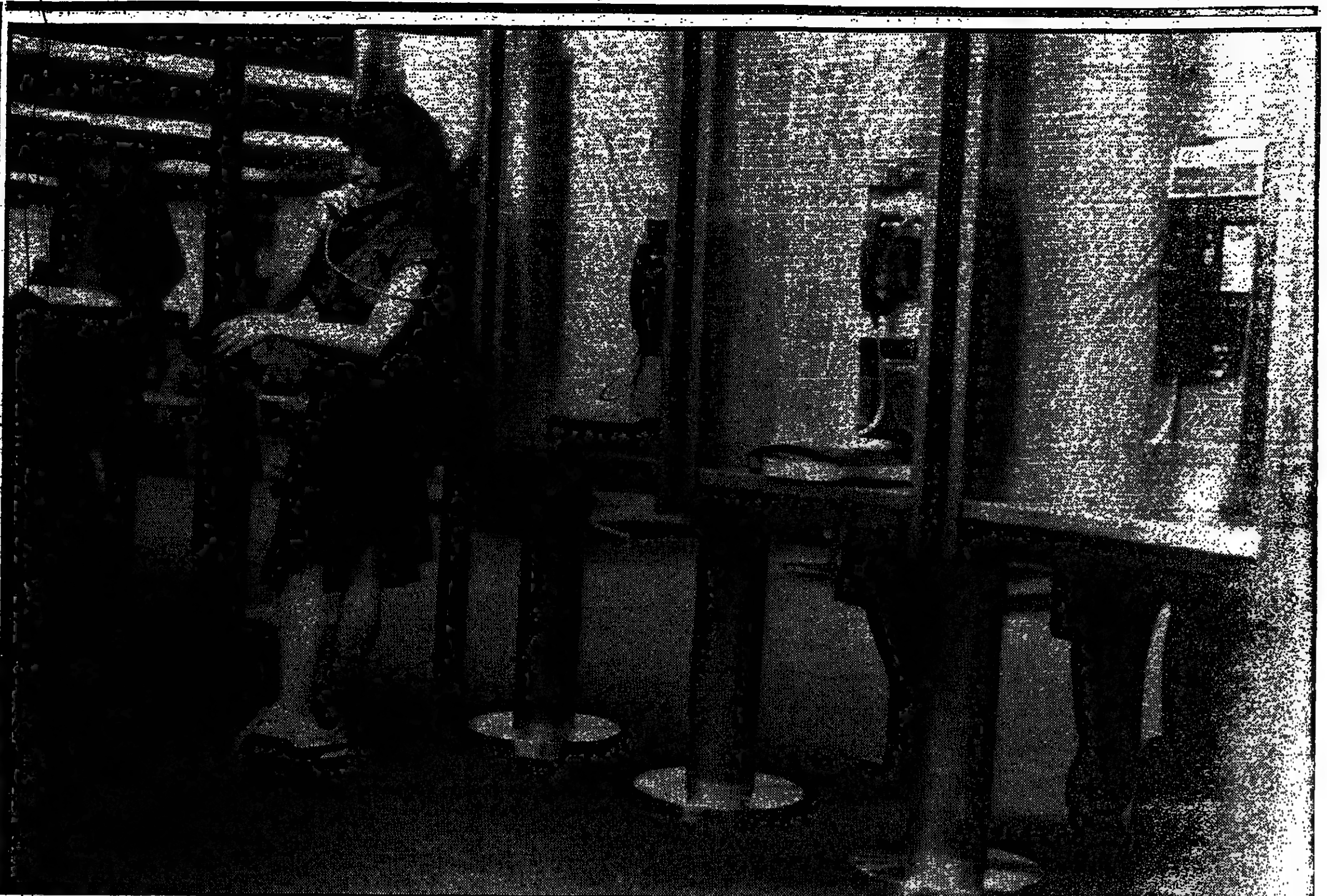
ANY ALLIANCE hopefuls for Brecon and Radnor should bear in mind the advice given to a young aspiring Liberal politician back in 1980. "Forget it," said the then party secretary-general, Hugh Jones. "It's a losing game. Big rural areas take all your time and effort." Young Simon Hughes took his advice and settled forth from the Old Kent Road instead.

BRITISH friends of Charles Krauthammer stamped to assure diary readers that he really exists. In which case it is really most misleading of him to pen Germany-based articles for Time. He has only himself to blame.

BRIAN SEDGWORE, Labour MP for Hackney South, is a blurbish sort of fellow. So blurbish, in fact, that he wrote last week acclaiming the Labour candidate's success in a ward byelection. "Hail Glad Confident Morn. Neger Again!" his letter ended rapturously, hitting the streets shortly after the Liberal candidate's convincing victory was announced.

SAATCHI & SAATCHI may have caused a spot of trouble for Mr Marcus Fox, Tory MP for Shipley. The firm's annual report prints a picture of Mr Fox standing on the Commons terrace in conversation with a "human resources" consultant for the Hay Group, a subsidiary of Saatchi's, together with a bit of blurb about the services Hay can offer MPs. The Privileges Committee takes a very dim view of any photograph taken within the Palace of Westminster for commercial ends. Mr Fox only vaguely remembers being snapped and pleads not guilty.

Alan Rusbridger



From New England to California, from Florida to Oregon, I never found a vandalised public telephone... Picture at Dulles Airport, Washington, by Neil Libbert

HAROLD JACKSON discovers a growing threat to civil rights on returning to his native land

Crossed lines in the pursuit of liberty

IT MAY be no more than the illusion of the returned, but the howl of police sirens appears to shatter the peace of English suburbia much more frequently than I remember when I last lived here in 1978.

It seems that almost every time we go along the local high street a police car flashes by with horns screeching—and that other contable the drama through-out the sleeping hours. Is this really the shape of the Iron-Lady's Britain (which we have not previously inhabited) or are we falling into the cross-Atlantic trap that has maddened us when we were living on its western side?

Virtually all our family and friends assumed that normality in Washington was under siege. It was, in their eyes, a toss-up whether we were gunned down by the neighbourhood mugger or by the police pursuing him. English visitors were plainly surprised by the tedious tranquillity of the American capital. As my wife explained, Washington is about the size of Birmingham but lacks its excitement.

In fact the only personal violence I have suffered in the past seven years came last week on the London Underground when a drunk started punching me. For what he was doing I thought were good reasons. Statistically, of course, the stereotype is right—the US murder rate far exceeds anything in Europe. But it still does not match the picture projected by imported American television or firmly accepted on the Clapham omnibus.

In reality, I have returned to my native heath to develop a far greater sense of personal threat than was ever induced while I was in Washington, Denver, Los Angeles, or even New York. It

is a complicated issue and I am not for a moment arguing that the United States does not suffer badly from excessive violence and social insecurity. But this phenomenon is not quite as it is perceived nor is it the nub of the argument.

As a middle-aged white you actually stand a far higher chance of falling victim to the abyssal standard of American driving than of any other type of violence. More Americans are annually mown down by cars than were ever killed in a decade in Vietnam, or are drilled with Saturday-night specials. No one put up memorials to them, or philosophises on the scars their death has left on society.

In reality, the victims of violent crime come less from the middle-Americans who scream about law and order, than from the grim inner-city ghettos. A recent study by the US Justice Department found that the risk of being murdered is six times higher for American blacks than for the majority population—and that the most vulnerable blacks are single men from 16 to 24. The federal crime statistics also show that young black girls are overwhelmingly the largest proportion of rape victims.

Even when middle-class whites might be thought most at risk, it is largely illusory. Contrary to the paranoid mythology, the rioters of Libertyville in Miami a couple of years back followed a long and weird tradition of putting the torch not to their affluent neighbours' property but to their own. In 1968, it was not Beverly Hills which went up in smoke but the wretched slums of Watts.

On the other hand, no one has ever thought it necessary to surround the Baltimore Orioles baseball park with electrified fencing and, in thousands of miles of travel

ling from New England to California, from Florida to Oregon, I never found a vandalised public telephone. But they are random, unpredictable, and statistically unlikely, I rarely leave home assuming that I shall be run over, shot, or electrocuted.

I find, though, that I really have started to worry about what previously I would have thought far-fetched—that as an Englishman I stand a good chance of being deprived of my ability to go about my lawful occasions, to have my children educated, to register my vote, and to be protected against arbitrary government. These rights seem much more endangered in this country than I could have thought possible when I left—and far more than they could ever become in the United States.

I can't claim that I ever walked down Massachusetts Avenue deeply comforted by the knowledge that the Bill of Rights was by my side. But that is the nature of rights: why worry about what you have? The issue has only intruded into my mind as I walk down the Strand realising that as a native of this land I have fewer protections than I had as a resident alien in America.

Successive governments and Parliaments have seen no reason why I should be entitled to know precisely how my tax money is being spent, what is in my medical records, or who has decided that I am a poor credit risk. In the middle of the local elections I realised that the present Government is not all that wedded even to the

idea that I should have a guaranteed vote.

There have, of course, been protests in Britain about this steady erosion of civil liberties but they seem to me to be unrepresentative of the general mood. What I have found distressing is how little reaction has been generated by some recent episodes, where basic principles have seemingly been swapped by transitory emotions.

Who could have contemplated for a second that any police force in the country would set out to prevent large numbers of ordinary people from going about their business, on the flimsy basis that they might be planning something undesirable? Yet this is what happened during the miners' strike and is what is proposed to defend the tedious presumption of innocence.

The summary departure of Mr Larry Gostin from the National Council for Civil Liberties offers a sad commentary on this new Britain. Compare that dispute with what took place at the council's transatlantic counterpart in similar circumstances. The American Civil Liberties Union came under heavy fire for defending the rights of local Nazis to stage a march through Skokie, the heavily Jewish suburb of Chicago. It lost hundreds of subscribers and came under heavy political assault, but it stuck to its guns in defence of the principle—that the right of peaceful demonstration is protected by the constitution. It made its point and the row is no more than a bad dream.

By contrast, the response of the NCCL membership over the right not to strike seems to me indefensible,

and symptomatic of the middle-headedness of both Right and Left in this country. Civil rights are not divisible and, as has been shown time and again in modern history, often centre on the least appealing causes or individuals.

From what I have heard of Mr Patrick Harrington's politics I doubt that he and I would ever find any common ground—except in his right to be educated to the fullest extent of his abilities. If the realities of the North London Polytechnic successfully determine that an NF member has no right to attend philosophy classes, who draws the line and where? The loony right in America feels pretty antipathetic to a lot of people's education—blacks, Catholics, Jews, Hispanics and assorted other groups. Fortunately, the system has largely beaten them back.

The quirkiness of English common law is all very well as long as we all agree on the basics. I no longer have any confidence that the Establishment is playing by the same rules as me. Such evidence as I have seen suggests strongly that Mrs Thatcher's instincts are deeply authoritarian and that she is much more wedded to "efficiency" than democracy.

This is in sharp contrast to the transatlantic political culture, where paradoxically the hard Right is often one of the strongest advocates of civil liberties. For the greater part, of course, it stems from a profound Jeffersonian suspicion of government at large, but Senator Barry Goldwater, for example, takes a far broader view of the matter than you are likely to find among comparable English Tories.

No one here seems to find it extraordinary that nearly 10,000 people in Britain are regularly imprisoned without trial—remanded in custody for anything up to a year

before they get to court. I wrote a Guardian series on this issue at least a decade ago and the position is far worse now. The broad view seems to be that they wouldn't be there if they hadn't done something.

Even more hair-raising are those cases which totally escape the courts, the immigrants who fall under administrative jurisdiction. They have fewer protections than the average laboratory rat, a sharp contrast with the Cubans, Haitians, Salvadorans, and others who fight their cases before the American courts and win a reasonable proportion of them.

The point about a Bill of Rights is not so much its specific provisions as about the reality there can be endless debate—its real strength lies in the political climate it generates. A few weeks working as a journalist in Washington bring home the reality of the First Amendment's guarantees of press freedom. Of course, there are the usual obfuscations and evasions of any bureaucracy under fire, but there is always someone sufficiently close to the constitution to spill the beans.

The right to knowledge is one of the most fundamental civil liberties—and the British record is horrendous and getting worse. The Prime Minister has openly declared that she believes in giving the minimum information she can get away with (even if the Official Secrets Act has continued to say under its own legal absurdities).

If anyone in the Pentagon had the gall to tell a Congressman that "it would not be in the national interest to reveal details of the defence research and development effort," he would find himself at the far end of the dole queue before the sun set over the Potomac. He would, in fact, be trying to bolt a

non-existent door, since it is all in the Congressional record if you know where to look. In Britain, the attitude passes almost without comment, though it is our money that is being spent.

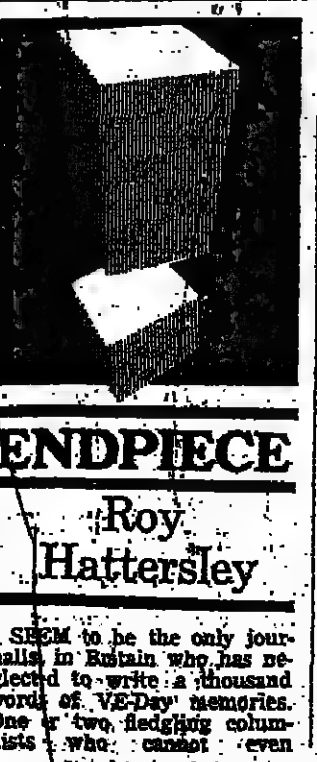
There was a wonderful example of what the constitutional guarantees actually mean when I turned up at a remote Pacific missile testing base—one of the few reporters ever to have set foot in the place. The army authorities really had no idea what to do with me, since I certainly wasn't one of the normal hazards in their activities.

So they showed me over the whole facility, explained his great detail, how it worked, and gave me details of the MX test programme, which would have been deeply classified in Washington. The working assumption was that, as a US taxpayer, I had every right to know what was going on.

The mind boggles at what would have happened had I turned up at a comparable British installation. Certainly I would have been put under arrest as an opening play. And then what? I should quite possibly have come before a judge to be told that freedom of information was irrelevant and that I had endangered the interests of the state.

The interests of the state, of course, were clearly laid out by Mr Justice McCowan in the recent Pentyng trial—the are, he ruled, whatever "the recognised organs of government and authority" say they are. This view was subsequently affirmed by the Attorney-General.

A similar proposition was accepted by 441 votes in 84 in the German Reichstag on March 23, 1953. It was called the Enabling Law and made Adolf Hitler the sole arbiter of Germany's national interest. We have just been marking the 40th anniversary of what that led to.



Roy Hattersley

clearly remember the end of 1980 have written movingly about what they should have done or might have been doing had they reached the age of consent by mid-1985. Other patriotic tyros have described what their parents recall of the morning of relief, afternoon of medication, and evening of rejoicing.

My apology or clear dereliction of duty comes, with excuse, that—typically enough—I was almost certainly not doing anything worth remembering. I recall that school was closed for the day and that, earlier in the week, I had reluctantly painted the flagpole from which Wisewood Secondary flew its victory Union Jack. My reluctance to make the contribution to the national celebration which our woodwork master had fashioned was a product neither of victory nor magnanimity in victory. The pole was laid flat in the school yard, so my phobia for heights was no handicap. And I did not even suffer from a desire for

reconciliation. To be 12 in 1945 was to believe in total war. My complaint was that other little boys were making raffia-topped stools for the Japanese—or of Parliament's deliverance from the Gunpowder Plot. The only conflagration in that cold-war which I remember clearly ended suddenly, at least for me, with my mother's discovery that I was launching what we called rockets from milk bottles horizontally instead of vertically. But I am not sure that we even had fireworks in 1945. Surely all the available powder was commandeered for the war effort. It was the right period for such childish homicide. For little boys of my generation were given

bazooka drill by a hundred episodes of British Movietone News. But could I possibly have behaved so foolishly at the age of 12? No wonder that I have blocked the details from my mind.

The other reason for my VE Day amnesia is my antagonism to anniversaries. They are, in truth, nothing more than submission to the tyranny of numbers or, worse still, artificially contrived opportunities to make a point that we were too reticent to make for the rest of the year or century. There is nothing remotely special about the numbers 50 or 100. And I am told by clever children with whom I sometimes come in contact that if the Arabs or Persians or whoever it was who invented zero had decided to build their calculations around eleven instead of ten, we would still have had a theory of numbers which worked just as well as our decimal-preoccupied system. I have no idea if, in these circumstances, we would have had to wait for another four

years to celebrate a comparable VE Day anniversary. I suspect not. For, unlike birthdays, great national celebrations do not happen naturally.

To save you the cost of paper, ink and stamp let me make it unequivocally clear that even as the white flagpole paint ran down my arms I was unambiguously thankful for victory and felt an unqualified gratitude to the man and woman who made it possible—especially Uncle Sid and Uncle George and my father in the Police War Reserve. And my gratitude has increased with the years as I have grown to understand what the alternative to victory would have been. But I cannot help as the joy bells ring out, remembering the last two lines of John Pudney's poem. "Better by far, for Johnny the bright star, to keep your head and see his children fed."

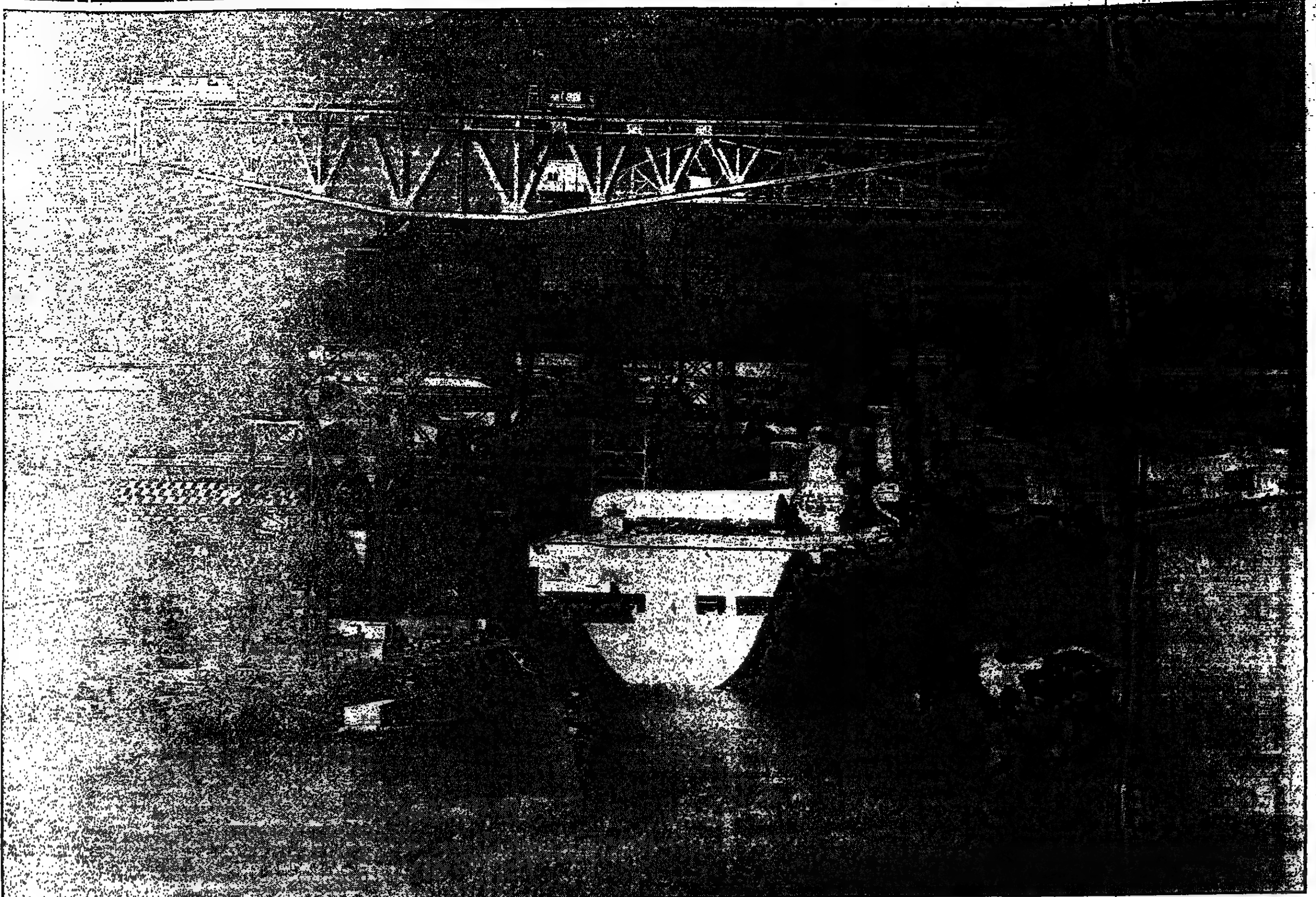
I regroup to repel the next assault by admitting that many of the institutions committed to remembering the

two Great Wars are the societies which most consciously and consistently assist the least fortunate survivors. But it is not about them that I am worried. It is the people who want to recall the deeds, not the dead of past campaigns who bother me—particularly the celebratory who did not get within 50 miles of Dunkirk or a thousand of El Alamein. I am not complaining about soldiers with memories but politicians with aspirations. I think of the pre-election speech by President Reagan on the beaches of Normandy and I want to prohibit anniversaries for ever.

The fashionable justification for the celebration of victory is that they are not celebrations at all but acts of reconciliation. I do not understand why such admirable initiatives have to wait until an arbitrary number of years have passed. Willy Brandt made such a moving act in a Jewish cemetery almost 20 years ago when the date on the calendar had no meaning whatsoever. And what sort of reconciliation

was encouraged by celebrating the day on which the allies landed in Europe? I suppose that I am really saying that I doubt the motives of the people who organise these events. The dead ought to be continually remembered, the liberators constantly honoured and reconciliation consistently pursued—without the benefit of attendant television cameras.

If reconciliation is the real objective, it seems to me that it is more likely to be achieved by the parties to the new friendship not spending millions of pounds to remind the world that just over 40 years ago they were trying to blow each other's heads off. It is a grievous misuse of Christmas Rossetti's maudlin verse but the motto ought to be "better you should forget and smile." Or, to put it another way, I would have preferred it, if last week all over Europe, little boys were making raffia-topped stools rather than painting flagpoles.



THE RIVER TYNE is now dominated by the massive silhouette of the fifth Ark Royal in the final stages of completion. The £200 million, 16,000 ton aircraft carrier is at Swan Hunter Shipbuilders' Walker yard, after performing nobly in her sea trials, operating at full power at a top speed of 25 knots and more. The first Ark Royal was built for Sir Walter Raleigh in 1586 for £5,000, and fought the Spanish Armada.

The latest model is something different. She was launched by the Queen Mother at Wallsend in 1981 and since then has been fitted out at the Walker shipyard with extensive modifications as a result of the experience of the Falklands war. After she is handed over to the Royal Navy at the end of June, three months ahead of schedule, the Ark Royal will be used as an off-shore base for vertical take-off Sea Harrier fighter aircraft, and Sea

King anti-submarine helicopters. But the activity in the yard contrasts with the leisurely pace across the river where Gipsy piebalds graze on the reclaimed land beside the Hebburn marina. The tower cranes, 210 metres of heavy metal, compete with the bobbing masts of moored pleasure craft, and swaying daffodils on the new Riverside Walk.

PICTURE BY DENIS THORPE

The MG TF was a rather special sports job thirty years ago. Now they're being made again — not by MG, of course, they don't exist any more, but by a new firm which has raised a small fortune to build replicas. Malcolm Pithers drives both the original and the 1985 version; and Don McPhee's picture of the two cars shows the Bradford-produced model on the right.

Double nostalgia

I PRESSED on the accelerator pedal of this ancient and modern machine and was rewarded with a surge forward and a low throaty growl from its exhaust. Time was turning backwards. I was driving across Yorkshire in a vehicle that re-created the 1950s. The hood was down, giving the elements free rein. A quick glance for policemen and the Naylor TF 1700 pressed on at an illegal pace.

The Naylor is a direct descendant of the MG TF. Purists, and there are many, scoff, saying nobody recreates a Moga Lisa. But the Naylor is the first truly open-topped replica with built-in nostalgia, more a prodigal son than a brother.

The Naylor is now being produced in Bradford with over £1 million worth of investment, a great deal more in endeavour, and 30 on the staff. It is the first replica sports car to be given "national type approval" by the Department of Transport. This is, in effect, its birth certificate; without it, the car would not exist.

The intention was to re-create in every possible detail an exact replica of the MG TF produced in the fifties and lost forever. Alistair Naylor had already earned a reputation for restoring MGs. Now 43, he once worked for a company selling, amongst other things, toilet rolls. He was also busy on old MGs in his spare time and sometimes, one suspects, during working hours. A Daily Mirror journalist, Alan Stanforth, also a car enthusiast and, as it turned out, a dedicated engineer, tracked Naylor down to write a piece about the restoration work. The Mirror published the story, perhaps with just too much emphasis on Naylor's part-time employment, and

he was promptly asked to explain himself to his employers. Naylor left.

He originally began a career with engineering in mind, while his brother David wanted to be an accountant. Both had a love of old cars, MGs in particular, and wanted to make money. David spent £30 on a run-down 12 MG in Barnsley and, with help from Alistair, began to re-build it. They really never stopped doing exactly that: other people began to call on their restoration services.

But it was not until 1979 that Alistair Naylor and Alan

for a national type approval certificate. That meant that his 1950s classic would be subjected to 21 demands from 1985 regulations. Naylor says now that if he had known then exactly what he would be up against he would probably not have continued. The morning the car was hurled into a wall at the motor industries research testbed, none of the makers could hide their fears. But the car passed, at a minor cost of £8,000.

Money became as big an issue as re-creating the car. In March last year, the West Yorkshire Enterprise Board put up a £20,000 loan and £48,750 worth of equity was injected into the company, now known as Naylor Brothers Developments. A further £20,000 came from private investors.

So far the project had been kept running by the founders and a £15,000 overdraft. The group realised that, to make the project happen, they would have to raise a considerable sum of money, and the only realistic way was to go public. By June, 1984, the offer for subscription had raised £263,000, which enabled other monies to flow towards them. The WYEB approved a loan of £120,000, and Williams and Glyn's Bank an overdraft of £100,000. There was no turning back. "It was easier getting a quarter of a million pounds than it was getting £10,000," says Stanforth.

By April this year, when the company's opening ceremony was performed by Mrs Jean Cook, daughter of the founder of MG, a further £250,000 was raised for additional working capital. Throughout this time the company was gradually employing people. One mechan-

ic turned up outside the firm in a Riley he had himself restored, and so impressed were the Naylor that he was taken on immediately.

Alistair Naylor, meanwhile, was busy persuading people within Austin Rover that he was not just another crackpot. He wanted not only a national type approval but the lifeblood of any car manufacturer, spare parts. He was also hoping to take over the MG badge. In the end he managed two out of three. The badge is still not for trading.

Naylor remembers the first meeting with the Department



of Transport people, who were extremely helpful but never thought he would succeed. "I kept on at them but they presented me with what is known as a statutory instrument. This lists down the 21 criteria a manufacturer has to meet for type approval to ensure the vehicle is safe in 1985, not 1955." He left the department more determined. "The object was to try and do what nobody had done, to re-create a replica of the vehicle, not a kit car."

The Naylor is slightly different from the original MG TF. It is amazing the reaction the cars get from young and old. A Lancastrian strolled up to me when I was in the Naylor saying he had always wanted an open topped car — in fact he liked the Morgan. I said, "but his wife had always flatly refused to ride in such a car." "I've since got rid of the wife so I'm on the look out for one," he said, quite seriously.

I have just driven both the Naylor and the original MG TF. It is amazing the reaction the cars get from young and old. A Lancastrian strolled up to me when I was in the Naylor saying he had always wanted an open topped car — in fact he liked the Morgan. I said, "but his wife had always flatly refused to ride in such a car." "I've since got rid of the wife so I'm on the look out for one," he said, quite seriously.

The Naylor is very positive to drive, and twisting and turning roads won't tempt it to slip or slide. It will, I swear, top 100 mph. The original, a marvellous car owned by Robert Cockcroft, has a rare kind of ageing comfort. It will do most things the new car will do, but obviously the years have taken their toll and the extra power is welcome in the Naylor.

The Naylor costs around £13,750, and the original is anybody's guess. Both cars can fulfil a motoring dream, at a price. The Naylor is about to be driven around the country as part of the Cavalcade of Motoring at 20 stately homes between June, at Epsom, through to Donington Park in Derbyshire in September.

Rubbish is preserved just because it is old. Take Stonehenge, for example, suggests Tony Harman. Well, no, that's maybe not the right example, but if not, why can't he build an imitation Stonehenge on his farm?

Age, alas, before beauty

I WOULD LIKE to build a henge. There are two reasons why I cannot do this. One is that I am not a millionaire. The second is that they would not let me.

I have a perfect site — visible for miles — so that all the nutters in the country could collect on midsummer night to do whatever it is that nutters do on midsummer night, or where pop festivals could be held without bothering anybody else. But they would never let me do it.

It would be just like the original Stonehenge, but, because it is new, it would be in better repair. I might even make it a little bigger. If one is beautiful, why would the other not be?

Filling in the forms for planning application would present some difficulty. What materials are the walls made of? There are not any walls. What materials are the roofs made of? There is no roof. What is the purpose of the building? What will it be used for? It would be impossible to say, except for an assembly of nutters. Are any organisations supporting your application? I should not think so.

But this would only be the beginning of one's troubles. As soon as the application is published in the columns of the local paper, there would be objections. An organisation would spring up to oppose what I wanted to do — probably called by some initials, like Campaign Against Harman's Henge — CAHH — or something of the sort. All the computers, accountants, and stockbrokers in their converted farmhouses or nauseating pre-war country houses would join together, along with the lesser commuters living in the converted farmworkers' cottages and terraced houses at the edge of the town, in a virulent campaign about the orgies which would take place when the henge was complete.

They would produce witnesses from Wiltshire to say what a burden the original Stonehenge was on the neighbourhood, the damage to property done around midsummer day, and the disgusting behaviour of the sort of people who gather there. Even the people who might be expected to use the facility would not do so for a few years because the vibrations would not be right, at least, not unless something dramatic happened at the spot.

Do you think they had trouble with planners all

these years ago on Salisbury Plain? Do you think they were told Stonehenge was out of scale with other buildings in the vicinity and jarred with its environment, that it was not in the traditional materials used in the area? After all, it had always been good henges around there. What is the matter with wood? Can you imagine the stone age planning officer saying: "If it has got to be in stone, it must all be in Sarsens, not those imported Welsh rocks."

When did we start respecting things just for their age and not for their beauty? Our immediate ancestors looked upon old buildings as a handy source of material for new ones or for hardcore to make roads. This was terrible, but so is the modern snobbery which puts age before beauty and the signature on a painting before the painting itself.

However ugly most of us think they are, 1930 cinemas are becoming worthy of preservation whenever anybody wants to pull them down.

If my henge could just be fairly old straight away, it could become quite acceptable. Now, however ugly most of us might think they are, 1930 cinemas are becoming worthy of preservation whenever anybody wants to pull them down. I do not know when this attitude towards age started, but it developed very quickly during the twenties and thirties.

When I was quite young in the middle thirties, I worked for a short while in a silversmiths in the West End of London. Everything over a hundred years old was good. Everything less than a hundred years old was rubbish. Was it because the standard of workmanship collapsed during the eighteen thirties? Not a bit of it. It was because our main customers were Americans, who would buy articles over a hundred years old and get them in duty free to America. Under a hundred

years old, even ninety-nine years old, they could not do it. Of course, the silver was precisely marked so that it could be identified as good or rubbish straight away. So the salesman had to convince people that everything was beautiful if it was over a hundred years old. It is probably worse now — certainly as far as housing goes. Rubbish which would have been condemned as slum, is preserved because it is old and made fairly habitable at great expense.

In the countryside at the moment, all the authorities are keen on preserving wooden farm buildings. They may be converted into houses, and are encouraged to be converted into houses in situations where no house could otherwise be built. This is done only because they are old. Their style and structure is not difficult to reproduce, but the actual barn is old, therefore it is beautiful.

One cannot help wondering if, in another fifty years or so, the modern asbestos and concrete buildings put up on farms since the war, which are still considered to be very unattractive, will suddenly become antique and, therefore, to be preserved, and people will be converting concrete silos and milking parlours into desirable country houses at enormous expense, naming them their historic buildings in the countryside.

Mind you, you cannot always say that. I had a foreigner have the same respect for age as we have. A few years ago, I was in the United States, attempting to sell Charolais cattle, which I breed in Alabama. My host at the time seemed to be a typical Southern gentleman, puffed out of his mind every night, and put to bed to my certain knowledge by the faithful black servant. This man surely must respect traditions? He was living in an entirely out of date style, so in order to impress him, I drew the conversation round to houses and said that the house in which I lived was reckoned to be as much as six hundred years old. "Never mind," he said, "if you do the trade you think you're going to do with these Charolais cattle of yours, you'll be able to pull it down and have a new one." I felt somewhat crushed at the time. But I suppose I had asked for it.

I think they would let me build a henge in Alabama.

Cheaper oil could be good for the West, but a desperate gamble for Britain



SATURDAY NOTEBOOK

THE OIL industry has been peeping into the abyss again. On Wednesday, the price of a barrel of crude from Britain's Brent field dropped to below \$32. The following day, the price picked up again and by yesterday it was back to around \$32.50.

But the dip was enough to revive the industry's recurring nightmare, which is that the price slides too far, the member states of Opec

will be unable to resist the domestic pressures to make up their losses by boosting production. This would flood the market with oil and create an eddy in which prices would spiral all the way down to the cost price of crude, which is below \$10 a barrel for even the most expensive blends.

The weakening of the dollar (which devalues Opec's dollar-denominated earnings) could have exactly the same effect. But even without a further collapse of the dollar, the nightmare is bound to come back again and again this summer as warmer weather in the northern hemisphere depresses demand.

There are two underlying causes of the present downward pressure on prices. One is that the world has learnt to get by with less energy so that even the upturn in the world's fortunes which began in 1983 has not led to more than a fractional increase in the demand for crude. The other reason is that most of the non-Opec countries are

pumping out oil as fast as they can. Britain's role in this cannot be overstressed. She may not be the biggest of the non-Opec producers—the US and USSR both have higher outputs—but output of itself is not as important as the proportion of that output which is traded internationally. In this respect, Britain is the market leader.

Although the fact is rarely mentioned, least of all by the British Government, Britain is in a position to exercise a greater influence over the price of oil than any other nation except Saudi Arabia. This might then be a good moment to ask if a substantial fall in the price of oil would, in the immortal words of a certain American President, be a Good Thing or a Bad Thing.

Most of the studies carried out so far have come to the conclusion that the trauma of a free fall to cost price or thereabouts would cancel out any possible benefits in the long term afterwards. Some of the world's mightiest corporations would be shaken to

their roots. Several producer nations would go bust and bring down with them the foreign banks and manufacturers to whom they are in debt. It is no exaggeration to speak of a 20 crash, but on a global scale.

However, the analysts have also come to the unanimous conclusion that a steady, controlled drop of 10 to 20 per cent would be really quite good news for the developed world as a whole. The rule of thumb that economists work on at the Organisation of Economic Co-operation and Development and the International Energy Agency in Paris is that every 10 per cent fall in the oil price would add about a half a per cent to average real GNP growth in the West.

Having said that, the benefits of a drop in the oil price would be unevenly distributed. A study by Data Resources found that the US would do particularly well. Energy intensities are higher there, the market for oil products is freer and the price of oil products contains

much less tax than in Europe, so a fall in the cost of crude would have a much greater impact on prices generally. The result would be a significant addition to disposable incomes and a rise in both consumption and investment.

Europe, on the other hand, faces less well in DRI's simulation, not only for the reasons mentioned above but because Europe, which is where Opec makes most of its purchases, would suffer most from the oil producers' belt-tightening and face stiffer rivalry from Japan and the developing countries whose competitiveness would increase more than Europe's.

Within Europe, Britain is a special case. As producers, our earnings in dollars from the North Sea would fall, but since the pound's fate is linked to that of oil prices, the dollar would strengthen at its expense so that the value of those earnings when translated from dollars into pounds would not fall by as much.

However, DRI's analysis

concluded the two effects do not cancel each other out. Simulating a drop in the price of a barrel to \$20 this summer, it found that the starting value of oil production falls by about \$4 billion, well over 10 per cent of GDP immediately, and government revenues from oil taxation drop by \$2.4 to \$3 billion. This shortfall immediately puts paid to any hope of tax cuts over 1985 and 1986.

What is more, Britain would seem likely to suffer a rise in inflation since the effect on prices in general of the fall in sterling would be more than offset by the cut in costs directly attributable to a drop in the price of oil.

Nat. everyone, however, agrees that this analysis. Recent runs on the Treasury model have suggested that Britain would be a net beneficiary. Gavyn Davies, of stockbrokers Simon and Coates also made up with that conclusion, but he added a warning that "there is no magic wand available to the UK Government which would

ensure a controlled drop in the oil price."

And what an outright collapse would be really good for everyone. It would be catastrophic for us. As Mr Davies pointed out, there is a good chance that Opec would single us out for punishment. The Opec members hold \$57 billion of sterling bank deposits and \$2.7 billion of British Government stock. They could cause panic on the markets.

Even a relatively modest drop in the oil price would have adverse results for Britain, which, because they do not fall within the scope of the theoretical economics, have barely been mentioned in the studies carried out so far.

For one thing, Nigeria is the debtor nation which is generally agreed would be most vulnerable to a cut in the oil price. If Nigeria went bust, British firms—more than any other—others would be left to pick up the tab.

Another thing which tends to be overlooked is that investment in the exploration

and development of new fields varies in line with the price of oil. As an official of the IEA put it: "When you get substantially below \$25, you get to the point where investment will be postponed." Nowhere is that more true than in the North Sea, where production costs are the highest in the world.

By leading the world towards lower oil prices, the British Government is therefore taking a gamble in which, from a strictly nationalistic point of view, the dangers are a great deal more apparent than the benefits. It may be an honourable and worthwhile objective to pursue in the interests of the West as a whole. But what is the quid pro quo for the Americans and our other allies?

As so often with this government, one is left in no doubt that it is allowing the "free play of market forces" but altogether less convinced that it is "bating for Britain".

John Hooper

Canadian deal provides strategic foothold

BT buys control of Mitel for £180 million

By Peter Large, Technology Correspondent

British Telecom yesterday announced its first major takeover, just five months after privatisation. It is paying £180 million for a 51 per cent controlling stake in the Canadian telecommunications manufacturer Mitel.

The deal, yet to be finalised, is the first solid signal of BT's determination to tackle world markets and it is being seen as a sign of greater pressure on BT's traditional UK suppliers, GEC and Plessey.

Mitel, formed in 1971 by two young British brain-drainers, quickly rose to world prominence in computerised phone exchanges, but then stumbled as the inevitably more sluggish big telecom corporations caught up.

BT's chairman, Sir George Jefferson, said the deal was of "considerable strategic importance" in giving BT a base in North America and in moving more strongly into the "office controller" role where

telecoms and computing converged.

Sir George said that talks so far with the Canadian authorities indicated that they welcomed the deal, which was reached in one week of negotiations. He added that he saw enhanced prospects for Mitel's UK factory near Newport, South Wales, where nearly 1,000 people work.

He emphasised that BT would exercise financial management control as soon as the agreement was finalised. But it was "most probable" that Mitel's founders—Mr Terry Matthews, the president and chief executive, and Mr Mike Cowland, the chairman—would continue to "play a part" in the firm. They hold about 26 per cent of the stock. Mitel headquarters in Kanata, just outside Ottawa, drew a great pace because Mr Matthews and Mr Cowland based their business from the start on the theory of the convergence of computing and telecommunications. In particular, they had designed microchips designed particularly for telecommunications.

BT, GEC, and Plessey took licences in their chip technology in 1980.

But then Mitel slipped into the classic tech management problem of a small leader's galloping expansion into a world force. It also encountered technical delays in producing a top-size version of its phone exchanges, the SX2000. It fell into loss in 1983 but was back in profit by the last quarter of 1984. Its loss in 1984 overall was \$22.1 million on a \$370.8 million turnover. Its long-term debts are \$209 million and its net assets \$201 million.

Already about a third of the company's phone exchanges BT deals in come either from Mitel or from BT's own designs, rather than from the traditional UK suppliers. The British computer company ICL also has a great pace because Mr Matthews and Mr Cowland based their business from the start on the theory of the convergence of computing and telecommunications. In particular, they had designed microchips designed particularly for telecommunications.

DPP orders Telecom applications inquiry

By David Simpson, Business Correspondent

The government moved yesterday to bring possible criminal proceedings against speculators who attempted to profit excessively from last November's \$4 billion British Telecom privatisation on the day that BT shares rose to yet another peak. Applications for the £383 million British Aerospace sale closed.

The Director of Public Prosecutions, Sir Thomas Hetherington, announced that he had asked the police to investigate alleged fraudulent multiple applications by certain groups and individuals for BT shares.

Investors to the BT issue were limited to one application form per individual, and ahead of the offer, the largest ever share issue in the world, the government issued a warning of possible charges against anyone discovered breaching the terms of the offer.

A firm of City accountants, Peat Marwick, were appointed to scrutinise the applications. Their findings were forwarded by the Department of Trade and Industry to the DPP in March.

The revolutionary strictures on multiple applications were

enforced because of beliefs that the offer for sale would be heavily oversubscribed, offering investors the opportunity of immediate, and substantial profits. These fears were duly realised, with the part of the privatisation reserved for the general public attracting nine times as many applications as there were shares available.

Yesterday, the shares stood in the London stock market at a price of 138p each, compared with the offer price of 50p, giving those investors who received shares an aggregate \$3.25 billion profit to date. The inquiries are believed to be centred on about eight groups who put in false applications for shares worth between £1 million and £2 million.

The application forms, tendered in fictitious names, tended to be drawn on single, speedily created, bank accounts.

None of the applicants in question received any shares, and the cheques they forwarded in support of their applications were cashed by the government and the proceeds held for several weeks before being returned to the applicants.

Warning as SE confirms concessions

By Margaretta Panozo, City Correspondent

Rebellious Stock Exchange members were warned again yesterday of the serious dangers to the securities and gilt markets if they throw out the modified key proposals due to go to the vote on June 4.

The warning came from Sir Nicholas Foulds, the exchange's chairman, in a letter to members confirming the decision to scrap the new top of shares, at £2,000 a share, in the exchange. The price of member's shares will be determined by market forces.

After bitter criticism from members, the Stock Exchange Council has also decided to scale down the voting rights of a firm, or group of firms, from 5 per cent of the total votes to 3 per cent. This concession has been made to meet objections that, at some later date after his bank, the council and exchange could be dominated by a handful of "wealthy financial groups."

Although the proposed new top of shares is being dropped, Sir Nicholas said the council would reserve the power to issue new shares at any future date, but only in exceptional circumstances. An example could be if there were no effective market in the shares.

The Bank of England and the Government, it is still determined that the maximum cost of entry for new firms into the market is kept at a reasonable level. Sir Nicholas said the council expected that the maximum cost for new firms—including buying new shares and the general services charge—would not exceed £700,000.

Many members will regard these concessions as a victory, but there are still a large number of small to medium firms who remain unhappy with the speed of change at the exchange and who might well still try to block the key votes.

Sir Nicholas again spelled out the threat facing the exchange if the proposals allow outside members full control of member firms. It is likely to move out of the exchange. It would be, in these circumstances, impossible to maintain an efficient and liquid market-making system through which remaining firms could do their clients' business effectively, he said.

He added that the failure of the second regulatory initiative—requiring a 75 per cent majority—could damage the exchange's standing, and the confidence of firms and investors.

Names face more PCW losses

By Mary Brasier

Names on Lloyd's syndicates managed by the former PCW agency will learn on Monday of millions of pounds of further underwriting losses on top of the £100 million they have already suffered.

An examination of the syndicates' latest financial position has revealed another massive tranche of losses incurred in 1983 and 1984. A total of 1,500 names are already facing demands for £50 million of additional funds to meet a deficit on the 1982 year of accounts, and £40 million was paid out last year. Mr Graham White, managing director of RBIA (the renamed PCW) confirmed yesterday that there were further losses to come but the figure could not be as high as £80 million.

The latest figures are said to be a reflection purely of bad underwriting, although the syndicates at the heart of the crisis, 918,940 and 157 are also those from which £38 million went missing.

This year, names have been given only until the end of July to find the money in some individual cases up to £500,000 apiece.

A meeting of PCW names has been called for Monday at the Royal Festival Hall in London at which the agency which is managing the affairs of the PCW syndicates, now renamed Richard Beckett Underwriting Agency, is expected to give more light on the 1983 and 1984 years of accounts, including a report from the syndicates' current underwriter as to why the figures are so disastrous.

The verdict of Lord Wilberforce on whether the Lloyd's underwriter, Mr Ian Fosgate, should have a life ban from the market was reserved yesterday as the four-day appeal hearing in London ended. The judgment is likely to be presented to a meeting of the Lloyd's Council in the next month or so.

By Maggie Brown
A Passage to India, the David Lean film based on E. M. Forster's masterpiece, has achieved such resounding box office success that its 10 financial backers, eight of them newcomers to film financing, are receiving an advance repayment of their capital.

The pension funds and institutions yesterday received repayment of 10 per cent of their outlay, worth around £1.8 million, in a move which could also be interpreted as whetting the City's appetite for more film finance deals.

Thorn EMI Screen Entertainment, in a pioneering deal last January, succeeded in selling a 50 per cent interest in five British films which it had backed up to the distribution stage. The list, headed by A Passage to India, also included Morons from Outer Space, the Holocaust, Covenant, Dream Child and Wild Geese II.

Mr John Reiss, production finance director of Thorn EMI Screen Entertainment, says there had been no forecast in the January prospectus, or requirement to repay the capital on top of agreed interest payments made at the end of April, but that A Passage to India was doing very well all over the world. It has already taken around \$30 million in North American box office.

Screen Entertainment, the revitalised film, video and TV production outfit of Thorn EMI, raised £175 million of finance in March, with which to fund up to 20 films a year made by independent producers. It is clearly considering offering a similar equity stake in a second package of new films later this year, as it builds up to its ambition of being able to bring two major new films to the marketplace.

We believe in the best design, right prices, without control of overheads. Good general managers, and a good, unimpaired, workforce."

Backers' passage to prosperity

By Maggie Brown

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Cadbury's soft-drink splash

By Andrew Cornelius

Cadbury Schweppes, the chocolate and soft drinks group, yesterday grabbed a huge slice of the fast-growing in-home soft drinks market with an agreed £28.2 million takeover bid for Sodastream, the leading company in the sector.

Sodastream claims to have 60 per cent of the UK market for the in-home carbonated soft drinks market, which sell for between £20 and £30 each. It also has a dominant position in Norway, Sweden, South Africa and Israel.

Cadbury is already a big force in the £1 billion a year UK bottled soft drinks market, and said that it had been planning an entry into the in-home market for some time.

"We see Sodastream as an opportunity of getting into a growth market," said Mr Colman, Cadbury's finance director, said.

Cadbury is paying three times net asset value for the Peterborough-based Sodastream business, which posted pre-tax losses of £4.5 million in the year to April 30, and has recently sacked 100 of its 500 strong workforce to reduce costs.

The problems at Sodastream were blamed on the costs of test marketing in the United States and West Germany, and a downturn in UK sales because of problems associated with the introduction of new dispensing machines.

Mr Brian Cookson, Sodastream's chairman, said that the takeover was "good for both sides." He said that Cadbury and the financial muscle to take advantage of the opportunities open to Sodastream in a fast-growing area of the soft drinks market. Only 12 per cent of UK households had in-house dispensers, compared with the 40 per cent penetration achieved in other countries.

Gadbury is offering 31 of its ordinary shares, or £48.40p in cash, for every ten Sodastream shares. This compares with the latest traded price of Sodastream shares of 242p per share.

Cadbury made pre-tax profits of £124 million in 1984, against pre-tax profits of £108.9 million the previous year.

Cadbury's soft-drink splash

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Gadbury is offering 31 of its ordinary shares, or £48.40p in cash, for every ten Sodastream shares. This compares with the latest traded price of Sodastream shares of 242p per share.

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Masses apply for BAE shares

By Michael Smith, Industrial Editor

A deluge of applications totalling between £15 billion and £25 billion is estimated to have been submitted for this week's £292 million payment of the £100 million share offering in British Aerospace.

City bankers handling the joint government and company share sale would last night confirm only that the down payment was "comfortably oversubscribed." But the private City estimates were that the offer was between five and eight times oversubscribed, indicating that up to £2.5 billion may be submitted for the £292 million of shares on offer.

While the government will undoubtedly hail the news as a further privatisation success story, the hefty oversubscription will re-open the controversial debate about selling public assets too cheaply. Full details of the oversubscription are not expected to emerge until Monday morning.

The government has already run into criticism over the large fees and commissions being paid to City financial institutions.

Under the terms of the joint sale, the government is selling its 48 per cent stake in BAE for a flat £363 million and BAE is simultaneously raising £187 million in a separate share offer.

But City institutions are being guaranteed 55 per cent of the joint issue and the general public only 24 per cent. The remainder is for existing BAE shareholders and employees.

The scale of the response is somewhat greater than its experts had anticipated and the greater the oversubscription the more intense will be the outcry about selling public assets too cheaply. £18p, to stand 45p above the offer price.

The new rates are the highest to be offered by National Savings for three years, and have been made with Treasury approval.

The rates will not have a direct effect on the building societies, who are already paying higher rates.

NatWest and the Trustee Savings Bank today begin opening branches as the first step towards six-day banking. More than 30 NatWest branches will be open today and by the end of the year the bank plans to have 200 branches open on Saturdays, and 1230 and involve 5,000 staff.

The TSB will also open 30 branches and move on to 200 by the end of the year.

Trade embargo row brewing

From Iain Gaeist in Geneva

The stage is set for a furious row in the GATT between the US and Nicaragua over the US trade embargo that took effect on Tuesday. The Nicaraguans have lodged a formal complaint against the US in the GATT and this will be heard in the 88-member GATT council here on May 29. The embargo affects 79 per cent of Nicaragua's exports.

The US trade representative in Geneva, Mr Peter Murphy, told journalists yesterday that the US will invoke Article 21 of the GATT agreement to defend the embargo.

This article permits countries to impose emergency restrictions on trade in the event of an emergency.

A rights issue to keep AE afloat

EPE's assets are being written-down by £2.5 million and with the other losses this means that most of the share capital and reserves are virtually wiped out. In order to make the rights issue, the shares are therefore being reduced to a nominal value of 1p. from 12.5p. The underwritten issue is the conversion of 100 million preference shares of £1 at par. In the ratio of one preference for every 15 ordinary shares held. It carries a dividend of 8 per cent net and conversion is into 50 shares.



Reuter in UPI watch

Reuter is keeping a careful watch on United Press International, the US news agency which filed for Chapter 11 bankruptcy protection nearly two weeks ago, the Reuter managing director, Mr Glen Renfrew, said yesterday.

No action would be taken unless it met two key criteria. Any move would have to bring benefits to the Reuter position

Liberty House is now fully let and further profits are expected this year. Profit from property sales yielded £267,000, shown as an extraordinary item. Last year Liberty opened stores in Norwich and Canterbury and several others are planned.

Speaking after Reuter's first annual meeting, Mr Renfrew said: "Any action we take will be done very much with the interests of Reuter's bottom line in mind. We are keeping in touch with all the relevant parties and we are evaluating the options for poss-

Electra to raise \$40 m

Electra Investment, the pioneering development capital trust, is raising \$40 million from three big United States investment institutions. The terms of the 9 per cent seven-year note subscription mean

that Electra will make a return on reinvestment in un-
dercapitalised companies on either
side of the Atlantic while
equity rights through the at-
tached warrants will involve
no modest dilution of assets
even if they and the dollar
steeply.

Unlisted investments account
for 57 per cent of Electra's
\$250 million investment portfo-
lio in line with the policy pur-
sued by the American Stock Ex-
change in management buy-out situa-
tions, the rise in stock mar-
kets, and to some extent the
United Kingdom Income tax
relief available under the Busi-
ness Expansion Scheme. Such
has raised the competition for the
better investment opportuni-

AS THE smell of roasted stags drifted away at the Coloroll pitch, shares in the wallpaper group struggled up to their offer for sale price of 135p yesterday only to close at 134p — 6p up on the day.

GLANFIELD Lawrence turned a profit of \$115,000 into a loss of \$200,000 in 1984, but Mr. Jim Gregory, who took the group over in January, says that a small profit was made in the first quarter. Investigations into accounting errors at the subsidiary are continuing and have widened to cover "other matter."

HILL. Woolgar now plans to join the USM in September. The licensed dealer and financial services group was planning an introduction last November.

**Edited by
Tony May**

THE MARKETS

Share prices continued to bubble along merrily as the account drew to a close. A healthy oversubscription to the British Aerospace issue, a useful recovery on Wall Street, and a selective demand for the more speculative customers for the three accounts combined to begin next Monday all contributed to the firm's undertone.

Golts ended marginally higher on reports that overseas buyers were nibbling. International leaders were back in favour, helped by overnight demand in the U.S. market. Golts' views on price worries, lacking a decisive trend.

Some stores also relinquished recent gains on profit-taking, although Debenhams stayed very active on takeover speculation. The day's main story occurred just after 9.30 am when British Telecom announced that it had taken a controlling interest in Canadian telecommunications giant MITEK, which makes private automatic branch telephone exchanges. BT closed 2p better at a new high of 157½, while MITEK, suspended some time ago at 550p, returned 150p higher at 600p.

Other electricals took the news badly, however. The prospect of increased competition hitting such as Plessey, 10p down at 170p. Defence issues were additionally unsettled by the proposed US cutbacks, which President Reagan reluctantly approved to enable his budget measures to be passed.

BOC Group, reporting half-time figures next Monday, rose 7p to 284p. Dealers are looking for profits of around £75 million, up from £85 million for the same period last year. **Vickers** continued their strong advance, up to 16p to 336p, still excited by **Mr Saul Steinberg's**

PEEK HOLDINGS is urging shareholders in **Energy Services & Electronics** to opt for the change in management that its bid would bring about and warns that the **ES&E** share price is likely to fall if the bid fails at Tuesday's closing date. The price has remained slightly above the offer terms even though some sellers were playing safe.

3.5 per cent holding and comment highlighting the prospects for nationalisation compensation, due to be heard by the European Court next month.

Main changes: British Aero 418p up 10p; Plessey 170p down 10p; Vickers 336p up 16p; BOC Group 284p up 7p; MITEL 600p up 150p; Pent-

COMMODITIES

22,565; value £387,492 million.

● Frankfurt: Prices closed mixed, with the bulk of trading centring around a few selected issues. The Commerzbank Index finished unchanged at 1244.5.

● Paris: Stocks closed higher in response to lower short-term interest rates, signs of a modest upswing industrial activity, and Wall Street's overnight turnaround. The general market indicator closed with a gain of 0.43 per cent. Advancing issues led declines 102 to

● Tokyo : Stocks gained in active trading. Nikkei Dow Jones Index : 12,526.31 (12,474.51).

● Hong Kong: Prices finished mixed in active trading. Hang Seng Index: 1613.36 (1610.09).

COMMODITIES

Copra: cash \$1,270 per tonne; three months: May \$1,221 per tonne.	Rubber: sept 69¢ per lb; June 6715 per tonne; July 6725 per tonne; August 6730 per tonne.
Tin: cash \$9,570 per tonne; three months \$9,250 per tonne.	Coffee: May \$2,108 per tonne; July \$2,107 per tonne; Sept \$2,207 per tonne.
Lard: cash \$391 per tonne; three months \$396 per tonne.	Now \$2,240 per tonne; Mar \$2,240 per tonne.
Tan: cash \$681 per tonne; three months \$686 per tonne.	Cocoa: May \$1,833 per tonne; July \$1,870 per tonne; Sept \$1,846 per tonne.
Silver: spot \$11.9 per tray at; three months \$672.	May \$1,820 per tonne.

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هكذا من الاعمال

WEEK-END MONEY

Stuck for a franc, lira or mark? The eurocheque is the best way to spend money from Norway to Cyprus. Margaret Dibben explains how the cheques work and what they cost

How to raise funds throughout Europe

Bank	Starting date	Annual charge	Foreign bank fee	Cost per cheque	Life of card	Card becomes invalid
Barclays	Late 85/early 86	£2.50	1.25%	30p	2 yrs	1.1.86
Lloyds	April 1	£2.50	1.25%	31p	2 yrs	1.1.86
Midland	May 1983	£2.50	1.25%	29p	2 yrs	31.12.86
NatWest	April 19	£2.50	1.25%	30p	2 yrs	31.12.86
TSB	End 85/early 86	£2.50	1.25%	30p	2 yrs	31.12.86
Yorkshire	May 1	£2.50	1.25%	30p	2 yrs	31.12.86

THE European Community, created to break down international barriers, has mostly made communication more complex. Your holiday money is a good case in point.

Time was when you could take your everyday cheque book across the Channel and, with your everyday cheque, get cash. Then came the eurocheque card which proved too simple so now we are coerced into the uniform eurocheque which costs money.

Years ago, only the Midland Bank chose the uniform eurocheque. The other banks are now following Midland's route and abandoning the free guarantee card in favour of uniform eurocheques, at a charge.

And of course there are selling this U-turn as a substantial improvement in the services they offer to customers. If that is the case, you may well ask, then why did they not prove the facility two years ago? Ah, well, it was different then.

The simple encashment card was first introduced purely as an anti-fraud device. Thieves had been stealing the hard-earned Harrods, having off to the airport or ferry terminal and enjoying a 24-hour spree on the Continent with cheque book and cash card.

The key condition to thwarting this game is making sure you never, in any circumstance, carry cheque book and eurocheque card together. Some success for the eurocheque encashment card in stemming fraud is claimed.

However, customers have been complaining to the banks that the card has a major drawback: it is not very widely accepted by banks abroad. Increasingly, particularly in France and Spain, customers are finding that their request for cash is met with a blank refusal. This can be rather inconvenient if it leaves you stranded without a peseta.

In contrast, the uniform eurocheque is as widely used as an everyday cheque on the continent as the high street banks' chequebooks are here. By joining the eurocheque system, the British banks are linking up with Europe's banking system.

Although the new card has the disadvantage of cost,

there are advantages, not least its total acceptability. While the encashment card could be used only to withdraw cash from a bank, the uniform eurocheque can be used just like your usual cheque, to buy goods in a store, to pay for a meal or hotel room, and get cash. And, unlike travellers' cheques, you do not have to pay for them in advance.

All the large banks, by strange coincidence, charge £2.50 a year for the card. And all of them will automatically renew it when it expires, always on December 31. Lloyds, National Westminster, Bank of Scotland, Royal Bank of Scotland, Co-op and Yorkshire banks have introduced the card this spring so for the first year you will not get a full 12 months' worth of use out of the card. Royal Bank of Scotland, more thoughtfully, is charging only £2 for 1985.



However, if you apply for a first card later in the year, probably after October, your card will be issued for the whole of 1986 and you will have rather more than £2.50 worth on this first card.

The next charge is 1.25 per cent of the value of the cheque you write out which goes to the foreign bank handling the cheque. In some cases you will be asked to pay this at the time of the transaction but, if you are not, then it will be deducted from your account when the cheque arrives home. This applies both for withdrawing cash and buying goods.

The final cost is the fee per cheque which your own bank imposes. This is generally around 30p per cheque and is automatically deducted from your account.

The amount of cash you can

withdraw on one cheque has just been increased to £100 and the same guarantee applies to the value of each cheque if you are buying goods, or rather, the equivalent in the local currency. However, you can use as many cheques as you need to make up the cost of more expensive items. The £100 limit is £25 more than is shown on existing cards but, even if your card displays the old £75 limit, you can still claim the £100 maximum.

Uniform eurocheques can be used in every European country and beyond. From Albania to USSR, the newest member is Cyprus. Italy does not issue its own eurocheques (it is constrained by foreign exchange restrictions) but will accept them.

They are, however, more widely accepted in some countries than others and, particularly if you are visiting Egypt or Russia, you should take another back-up source of currency.

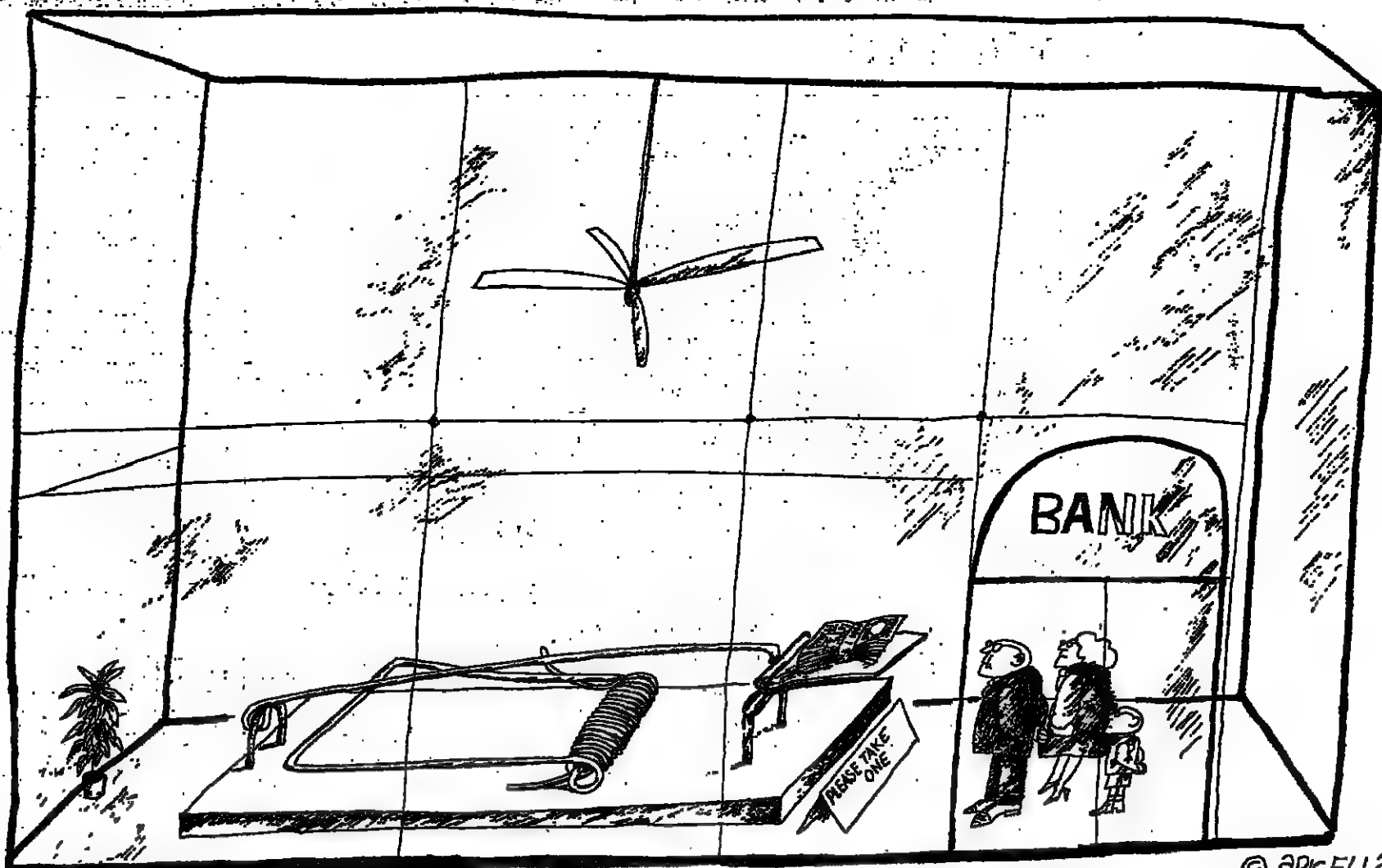
Some foreign banks may still ask you for identification over and above the cheque guarantee card. This is extremely irritating and superfluous but if the cashier says "no passport, no money" there is nothing you can do about it but play their rules.

You can use the Midland Bank eurocheque card in some cash machines operated by Sistema 48 in Spain. This pilot scheme has proved extremely popular and Lloyds and National Westminster are planning to add the service later. From July the Midland card will also be usable in UK cash machines.

The limit is £200 per week. In addition to the amount available with your normal cash card. There is no charge if you qualify for free banking but you must ask your bank manager for a separate PIN number.

Moreover, you can, should you wish, use eurocheques in this country both for cash and for purchases. If you do, there is no 1.25 per cent fee to pay and, if you qualify for "free" banking, no cheque charge either.

Altogether, eurocheques can be used in 45 million retailers in 26 countries and 200,000 bank branches in 39 countries. Once the cash machine facility is widespread, that will be really useful.



Cut-price tax help

A GROUP of accountants aiming to bring tax advice to the masses is offering a fixed fee service to fill out your tax return. They have formed a company, called Taxline, to handle the tax problems of PAYE employees whose only option, if they cannot manage their own affairs, is to pay an expensive accountant.

Taxline charges £15 a year plus VAT and in return will deal with your income tax return, obtain tax refunds if possible and will give advice throughout the year. If they manage to get you a tax re-

fund they charge a commission of 10 per cent excluding the first £15. So, for a tax refund of £30 you would have to pay an extra £15 plus VAT to Taxline.

Taxline is based at 181 Merton Road, South Wimbledon, London SW19 1ER.

Mortgage rise

NATIONAL Westminster Bank, having been the bargain-basement mortgages for some weeks, is falling into line. Although the banks have been reducing their base rates, they have not fallen far enough for NatWest to sustain its lower home loan rate, and from June 1, they are increasing this by 0.625 per cent. For repayments starting on July 5, a repayment mort-

gage will cost 13.5 per cent and an endowment 14 per cent. These rates are still below building society charges, which show no signs of coming down for some months yet.

Interest up

SUNDAY is not a day of rest for your money and, from tomorrow, any you have invested in National Savings Income Bonds and Deposit Bonds will be even busier. Just as talk is hotting up of interest rates falling, these investments will pay an extra 0.5 per cent giving 13.25 per cent. This figure is subject to tax but National Savings is virtually the only place left which still pays out interest without deducting tax for you.



Open days

NATIONAL Westminster Bank today starts opening on Saturday mornings in 32 branches. The branches, rising in number to 200 by the end of the year, have been specially dressed up with foldaway interview booths, video displays and blinds over the counters. Some will provide television for children. The staff will also be specially decorated and the whole operation titled 'SatWest' (instead of NatWest, get it?). Unfortunately the staff will be so busy giving saving and loan advice, that they will not be cashing cheques. There is, of course, the cash machine.

Christine Stopp reassesses a favourite savings scheme

Policies for profit

THE traditional with-profits life insurance policy has for many years been a favourite and easily accessible way of saving for the future. Until Budget Day last year, investors benefited from the addition of life assurance premium relief to their savings, effectively boosting the regular amount saved by more than 16 per cent.

Traditionally such life policies have put up quite a good showing — or at least, the top performers have. For the years ending February 1, 1982, 1983 and 1984 respectively, the top performing policies in the industry grew to £2,004, £2,078 and £2,268 on a monthly premium of £10. These figures are for a male investor aged 30 when he took out the policy.

For the ten years to February 1, 1982, the average annual inflation rate was 14 per cent. The net annual yield on the policy was 13.4 per cent. For the period to 1983, the top policy beat inflation, and so did the top policy for the year ending in 1984, when the net annual yield was 15.2 per cent, compared with average annual inflation of 13 per cent.

However, in 1984 the Chancellor's axe fell on life assurance premium relief, which was abolished overnight. The effect was bound to hit results on with-profits policies.

The survey from which the above figures are taken, in May edition of Money Management, shows the yield figure stripped of the effect of L.A.P.R. to give a return of only 12.2 per cent against 13 per cent inflation.

Looking at these figures over the three-year period, with and without the benefit of premium relief, it is clear that sometimes with-profits policies will beat inflation, and sometimes they won't. The loss of the relief makes their ability to do so less certain. Remember that if the return on the policy does not beat inflation, the investor sets a negative real return. Member also that these are the top performing policies. Between the top and the bottom performer there can be a world of difference.

Looking again at the figures for the ten years policy, from Ecclesiastical Life, was worth £2,268. The bottom performer, Zurich Life, grew to only £1,475. So added to the uncertainty of whether a policy will beat inflation or not, there is the difficulty of choosing from a very large field. Our table shows the top ten performing policies over ten

Top ten life companies 10 years to Feb. 1, 1985 (£30 a month, Man aged 30)		Unit trust performance (median fund in sector) 10 years to April 1, 1985 (£20 invested monthly)	
Scottish Amicable	8,210	UK Equity Income	7,013
Standard Life	7,902	UK General	7,114
Norwich Union	7,793	UK Growth	8,829
Scottish Widows	7,762	International	8,159
Ecclesiastical	7,338	Japan	7,418
Turnbridge Wells	7,308	North America	5,581
Equitable	7,297		
Friends Provident	7,271		
Scottish Life	7,230		
Clerical, Medical & General	7,151		

Source: Money Management

Source: Unit Trust Association

years to 1985 (The difference in results between these and the figures quoted above is because the basic premium was raised to £30 for this year to bring the survey more into line with today's typical investment.) The companies listed here also do very well over longer terms, and have frequently appeared in the top figures over previous years as well.

Another important factor is bonuses. A with-profits policy includes an element of life cover, but only a fairly small one. The life company need, therefore, make only very small investment returns to cover its potential liabilities under the insurance cover. The bonuses, which are distributed to policyholders by means of bonuses.

There are two types of bonus: reversionary and terminal. Reversionary bonuses are announced every year and accrue to the policy to be paid out when it matures. Once given, they cannot be lost. Terminal bonuses are additional amounts added to the policy when it is finally cashed in, or when the policyholder dies and a claim is made against the policy.

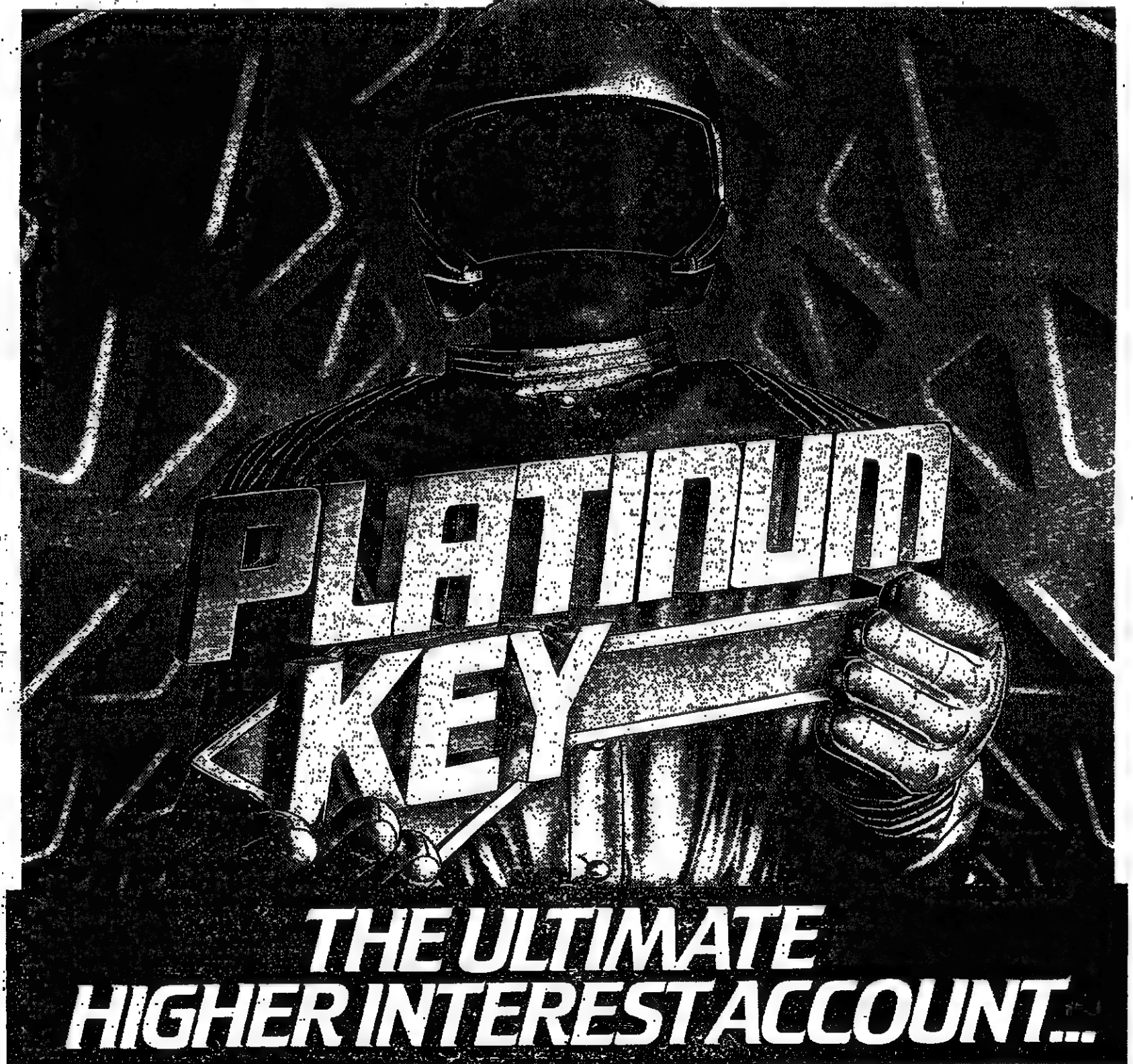
The returns on with-profits policies have come to depend a great deal on the bonus system. For the top performers we show, the percentage of the maturity value made up of terminal bonuses is between 25 and almost 40 per cent. So while the bonus can't disappear, as a temporary price gain on a unit trust can, they rely on the investment management skill of the life company and the general economic climate over the policy term. They can also be used to manipulate the performance of policies. The loss of performance as a result of the disappearance of premium relief may well be masked because of this.

Bonuses, like stock markets, have been high over recent years, and there has been a lot of speculation that the bubble must burst: bonuses will have to take a sharp fall, and policy maturity values will then be based on a lower level. It hasn't happened this year, and bonuses show every sign of being higher than ever.

In spite of this, life offices' premium income has dropped over the last year. The public is obviously discouraged by the loss of relief, which was very much used as a marketing prop by life companies. Without the relief, other investments look much more attractive by comparison: the small advantage of some life cover with a with-profits policy could be had much more cheaply through a term insurance policy which has no investment element.

In order to show some comparison with the sort of results achievable with life policies, our table also includes results through regular savings plans investing in unit trusts. The two sets of figures are not strictly comparable for two reasons: first, the unit trust results are based on a £20 a month regular investment, whereas the life policy figures represent £30 a month; and second, the life policy figures show only the top performers of the industry, whereas the unit trust figures represent the median fund in the unit trust sector.

As the figures show, in spite of these disadvantages, three unit trust sectors showed a median performance over ten years of more than £7,000 — comparable with the lower reaches of the insurance top ten results with a premium which is 50 per cent higher than the unit trust contribution. The investor may not be absolutely convinced that with-profits policies are old hat, but the table must give him plenty of food for thought.



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WEEK-END MONEY

Day out in Norfolk: picture by Don McPherson

From tomorrow travel by British Rail should be simpler but not always cheaper. Ian McMaster reports on some fare deals

How a weekend return came to the end of the line

FROM May 12, British Rail is going to make a number of important changes to its fare structure and to the discounts available to railcard holders. These changes seem certain to cause more confusion about which fare is the best value for each journey: many journeys will also be more expensive.

There are currently nearly two million railcard holders. By far the biggest group — one million of them — hold Senior Citizen railcards, now available to both women and men aged 60 and over. The other main cards are for young persons (650,000 holders), families (20,000) and the disabled (20,000). Railcards cost £12, with the exception of the 57 senior citizen card which can be used only for day returns —

and, in return, holders can obtain a range of discounts on British Rail, Sealink and Motorail services. Full information about the qualifying conditions and all the benefits is given in leaflets available from most British Rail stations.

While the details differ slightly between the various cards, disabled people can have an accompanying adult travel at a reduced rate too, and up to four children under 16 can travel for £1 with an adult holding a family or senior citizen card, the basic discount structure is the same. There is a 50 per cent discount on ordinary single and return tickets and on standard and off-peak day returns. There is also a 15 per cent discount on Saver return tickets, available for a

number of longer journeys, particularly those to or from London. Saver tickets are valid for a month and are cheaper than ordinary returns, but have certain restrictions on the journey times. Peak commuter times are excluded for journeys to or from London. Finally, there is no discount on weekend returns.

This differential pattern of discounts can make the calculation of the cheapest ticket a considerable mathematical exercise. You have to work out whether a Saver with a 15 per cent discount is cheaper than a half price ordinary return or day return. In practice, it is often necessary to rely on British Rail staff to point you in the right direction.

Since the current situation is so confused, it might be thought that change could only be for the better. Unfortunately, this is not the case. From May 12, the weekend return ticket will disappear. Cheap day returns will generally only be available for journeys under 60 miles, except in the South-east of England. To compensate, Savers will be more widely available than at present: they will cover all journeys over 60 miles and some shorter trips outside London and the South-east.

For railcard holders, the discount on Savers goes up from 15 per cent to 34 per cent but the discount on single tickets and ordinary returns goes down from 50 per cent to 34 per cent. For day returns the discount remains at 50 per cent.

Clearly some journeys will be cheaper than before if you could previously obtain a Saver for your journey, then you will get a larger discount. On the other hand, day return journeys over 60 miles outside the South-east will be more expensive; you will have to buy a Saver rather than a half price cheap day return. This will particularly hit people travelling to the coast from inland stations, or coming to London for the day.

The reduced discount on standard return journeys will hit passengers who cannot take advantage of Saver tickets — those travelling at peak times and people, such as students, who wish to return more than a month after their outward journey. The fact that this latter group might find it cheaper to buy a Saver for the outward journey and a single ticket for the return only adds to the confusion.

Even more confusing is the advice in the latest British Rail leaflet — "Rail Card Changes From May 12, 1985" — which informs railcard holders that they may find that a Saver or a cheap day return is cheaper than a single ticket when making a single journey.

In all cases where fares will rise, many people with disabilities will be doubly penalised since not only will their own fare cost more, but the fare for a companion will also go up. This will particularly affect people, such as those who are visually handicapped, who rely on a companion to make the journey possible by providing assistance either during the journey or at either end. The added expense will further restrict the mobility of people with disabilities. The Disability Alliance, the Royal National Institute for the Blind, and the National Federation of the Blind have joined together to protest to British Rail and the Secretary of State for Transport.

Given all the confusion, why are the changes being introduced? It is clear that purely commercial considerations are responsible for the change in the general fare structure. The Government is seeking to reduce the public service obligation payment — given to BR to run "unprofitable services" — by some £20m by 1988. Likewise it is commercial considerations that have led to the reduced discounts for railcard holders. It appears that Inter-City now wishes to see railcard holders make a greater contribution to revenue, even though journeys undertaken with these cards are already profitable to BR.

This is especially disturbing since railcard holders include many of the poorest members of the population who are now, as in many other areas, being asked to bear the brunt of the Government's financial stringency.

Ironically, one of the original aims of the changes was to simplify the fares structure. With the over-riding emphasis given to short-term profitability, both simplification and British Rail's aim to be a public service appear to have taken a back seat.

Lindsay Cook on why the Inland Revenue is chasing postmen, hairdressers, waiters and dustmen

Why the taxman wants a tip

IF A waiter doesn't smile next time you give him a hefty tip, it could be because he is calculating just how much of your generosity he will be allowed to keep once the taxman has got his share.

The Inland Revenue regard any payment received for doing a job as just as taxable as wages so tax offices throughout the country try to track down and tax any gratuities, be it a fiver tucked into the back pocket of a hairdresser, or a 20p piece placed under a saucer in a tea shop.

A recent exercise by tax offices in one region found that hotel and catering staff in some larger well-known establishments received up to £7,500 in a year tips. The review yielded some £850,000 in tax and the lowest average agreed tips per full time worker was £750 per annum.



"You must realise Climpson that every time the wheel of fortune spins somebody has to lose."

most members of the public. Postmen who regularly work on the same rounds are expected to get about £150 worth of tips in the season of goodwill. Milkmen don't fare quite so well and are reckoned to be worth £100 at Christmas by their customers.

Newspaper delivery boys and girls are unlikely to come within the tax net as they usually earn less than £2,205 a year, and can therefore keep all their gifts.

In hairdressing salons, stylists may well get a pound from each customer for the hour's attention; men on average spend less time and money with their hairdresser and tip accordingly.

Taxi drivers also expect to have a pocket full of gratuities by the end of every working day, while dustmen tend to be on the receiving end once a year.

Generosity is not always shown in cash. Barstaff may be asked to have a drink with a customer and as far as the Inland Revenue is concerned they can keep it. But if there's a kitty behind the bar for tips then the taxman is interested.

Those workers who get gifts such as a bottle or case of Scotch from their employers or customers should technically pay tax on the full value of the gifts, if they earn more than £2,500 a year, but the Inland Revenue is not interested in chasing after such trivial sums. But if, as part of a job, a worker regularly receives cheap or free produce every week, then the Revenue would want its slice.

Last year the Inland Revenue decided that Christmas parties costing the boss more than £30 per head should be added to the worker's income and taxed accordingly.

It's all part of the tightening up by the tax authorities to get hold of any income missing around the black economy and to discourage generous allowances and perks.

The taxmen are seeking help from the public to trace income that is not being taxed. It is estimated that the Treasury loses about £4,000 million a year through workers failing to own up to everything on their tax returns. Now the association of Her Majesty's Tax Inspectors has suggested that members of the public who provide information to track down some of the missing just should receive more generous rewards. The limit for such payments is currently £50, however much is recovered.

£500 GETS YOU A REALLY ENJOYABLE BLEND.

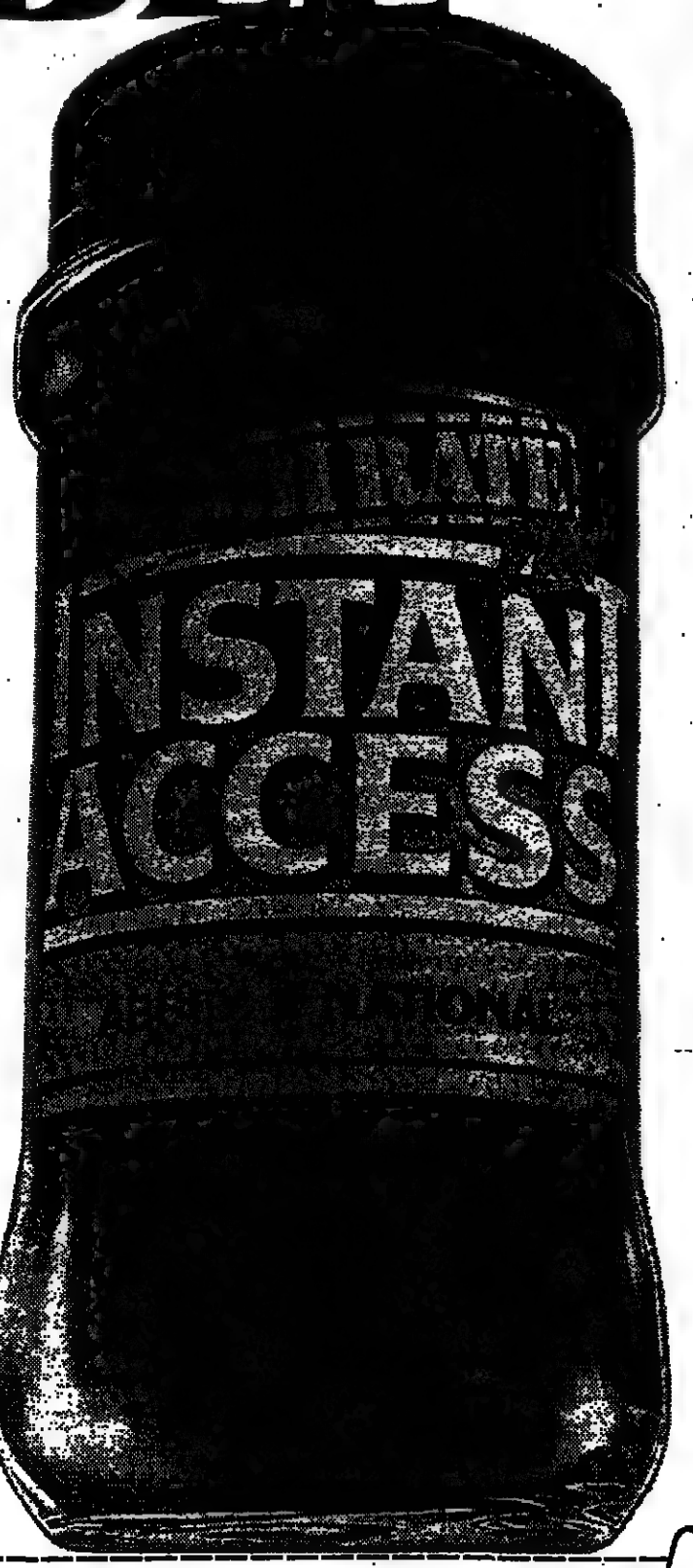
Opening up an Abbey National Seven Day Account can have a very stimulating effect on your savings.

Because you'll immediately start earning 9.52% net. And you'll have instant access, providing you leave over £500 after taking out some of your money.

INTEREST TWICE A YEAR EARNS YOU 9.75%. Another clever thing with this account is that your interest is added twice a year. So over a whole year your money builds up to earn you an extremely healthy 9.75% net. It's equivalent to 13.93% gross for basic rate taxpayers.

Of course, rates may vary from time to time. WHEN YOUR BALANCE DROPS, THE RATE DOESN'T. If you're not especially interested in instant access, you can start a Seven Day Account with as little as £100. And unlike some societies' accounts, you'll always earn the high rate current at the time. Even if your balance drops to as little as £1.

IT'S NO SEVEN DAY WONDER. You can add to your account as and when you please up to the joint account limit of £500,000. Small wonder over 1.5 million investors have chosen Seven Day as a safe home for their hard-earned money. To join them, pick up a pen, fill out the coupon and post it to us. Or call in to your nearest Abbey National branch. They'll happily spill the beans.



Which Society?

- Amongst the 'Top Twenty' has
- The highest reserve ratio
- The lowest administrative costs
- No branch offices
- Offers to new and existing investors

10.6-15.14

EFFECTIVE RETURN IF HALF-YEARLY INTEREST ADDED 10.88-15.54

Free brochure from

GUARDIAN BUILDING SOCIETY

Dept C5, 120 High Holborn, London WC1V 6EH. Tel: 01-442 8811

TRUSTEE STATUS

PAID BY B.S.A.

Are you as happy with your building society?

ABBEY NATIONAL BUILDING SOCIETY, ABBEY HOUSE, BAKER STREET, LONDON NW1 6XL

To: Dept. 7.D.T., Abbey National Building Society, FREEPOST, United Kingdom House, 180 Oxford Street, London W1E 3YZ

Full name(s) Mr/Mrs/Miss _____
Address _____
Postcode _____ Telephone _____

I enclose a cheque for £ _____ to be invested in a Seven Day Account at my/our local branch in _____

Please send me full details and an application card. I/We understand the rate may vary.

9.52% = 9.75% = 13.93%

NET RATE NET COMPOUNDED ANNUAL RATE TO BASIC RATE TAXPAYERS GROSS COMPOUNDED ANNUAL RATE TO BASIC RATE TAXPAYERS

ABBEY NATIONAL SEVEN DAY ACCOUNT

Get the Abbey Habit

M&G INITIAL OFFER INTERNATIONAL INCOME FUND

THE NEW M&G INTERNATIONAL INCOME FUND aims to provide investors with a high income, and one that can be expected to increase over the years, from an international portfolio of equities. The estimated gross starting yield is 6%. It will appeal particularly to people who think it is prudent to have some of their money invested overseas without sacrificing income.

An important part of M&G's reputation is based on providing steadily increasing income from high-yielding unit trusts. In addition we have led the way in the development of overseas trusts, with an investment team that includes specialists in all the important overseas stock-markets. These two factors are now combined in The M&G International Income Fund.

We believe that there are at present a number of excellent opportunities around the world for buying shares with high yields. You should remember that exchange rate fluctuations may affect our ability to provide an increase in income every year. We expect the initial geographical spread to be broadly as follows:

USA 40% Hong Kong 10% Europe 7%
UK 20% Australia 8% Japan 5%
Gold shares 10%

Unit trusts are a long-term investment and not suitable for money you may need at short notice. The price of units and the income from them may go down as well as up.

During the initial offer (closing 31st May 1985) applications of £2,000 or more will receive an extra 1% allocation of units.

Applications will be acknowledged and Certificates will be posted on or before 28th June 1985. Once the initial offer has closed units can be bought or sold on any business day at the prices then ruling by writing to or telephoning M&G (Unit Dealing Department), Three Quays, Tower Hill, London EC3R 6BQ. Telephone: 01-283 5362.

FURTHER INFORMATION
Income units and Accumulation units are both available. Distributions on income units will be paid net of basic-rate tax on 1st June and 1st December, starting with an interim distribution on 1st December 1985. Income on Accumulation units is reinvested to increase their value and holders will receive an annual tax voucher starting in December 1986. Prices and yields will appear daily in the Financial Times and The Daily Telegraph. Unit holders will receive a registered certificate for their units, issued by the Trustee, and a Managers' Report every six months. Management charges: A preliminary

charge of 5% of the value of each unit issued is included in the price and an annual charge of 1% (plus VAT) of the value of the Fund will be deducted from its gross income. Remuneration is payable to accredited agents; rates are available on request. A copy of the Trust Deed may be inspected at the head office of the Trustee or at M&G's London Office. Auditors to the Fund: Deloitte Haskins & Sells. Taxation: The Fund does not pay tax on capital gains. Income is distributed (or retained) net of income tax at the basic rate. The Fund is a wider-range investment under the Trustee Investments Act, 1961, and is authorised by the Secretary of State for Trade and Industry. Application has been made to The Council of the Stock Exchange for the units to be admitted to The Official List. The Trustee is Lloyds Bank Plc.

M&G SECURITIES LIMITED, Three Quays, Tower Hill, London EC3R 6BQ.

INITIAL OFFER CLOSES 31st MAY

During the initial offer, which will close on 31st May 1985, applications of £2,000 or more will receive an extra 1% allocation of units.

The Managers reserve the right to decline subscriptions at any time and you are recommended to apply as soon as possible, but in any event applications with cheques must reach us by 31st May 1985.

To: M&G Securities Limited,
Three Quays, Tower Hill, London EC3R 6BQ

Please invest £ .00 in INCOME/ACCUMULATION units (delete as applicable or Income units will be issued) of The M&G International Income Fund at 50p each (minimum investment £500). My cheque, payable to M&G Securities Limited, is enclosed. APPLICATIONS MUST INCLUDE CHEQUES.

Are you an existing M&G Unitholder? YES/NO

02	MR/MS/MISS	FULL FORENAME(S)
SURNAME		
04	ADDRESS	
POST CODE		
AIG		

SIGNATURE _____
DATE _____
Registries in England No. 90776 Reg Office at above.
(This offer is not available to residents of the Republic of Ireland)

M&G SECURITIES

£20 A MONTH CAN ACCUMULATE A LOT OF MONEY

If you had chosen fifteen years ago to save £20 a month in a building society, and had left the interest to accumulate, by 1st April 1985 your total outlay of £3,600 would have built up to £27,213. On the other hand, if you had chosen to save the same amount each month in one of our larger unit trusts, M&G SECOND General Trust Fund, you would have built up an investment worth £17,219, an extra £10,000.

You can start an M&G Unit Trust Savings Plan with as little as £20. You need not subscribe regularly but we strongly recommend that you do so, by completing the Bankers Order form. By saving a regular amount you make fluctuations in the stockmarket work to your advantage because more units are bought when their price is low than when it is high.

Unit Trusts are an excellent method of investing in the various stockmarkets of the world, and are ideal for regular investment over the longer term. They are not suitable for money you may need at short notice.

The price of units and the income from them may go down as well as up.

Your Savings Plan subscriptions go into Accumulation units of the Fund you choose and income is reinvested automatically after basic-rate tax. Further details of the Funds and

WHAT YOU COULD HAVE ACCUMULATED FOR £20 A MONTH BY 1st APRIL, 1985

	5 YEARS from 1st April 1979	10 YEARS from 1st April 1979	15 YEARS from 1st April 1979
Amount paid in	1,200	2,400	3,600
M&G Dividend	2,483	7,996	18,397
M&G Recovery	2,182	9,253	25,747
M&G SECOND	2,214	7,876	17,219
F.T. Industrial Ordinary Index	2,104	5,931	11,294
Building Society Savings Account	1,496	3,639	7,213

Source: Planned Savings. All performance figures include income reinvested net of basic-rate tax. The figures for the M&G Funds are 'bid' prices. You should remember that past performance is no guarantee for the future.

the rules of the plan are available on request. All the Funds are wider-range securities and are authorised by the Secretary of State for Trade and Industry.

The only charges are those you normally pay with unit trusts - 5% included in the initial price of units and up to 1% annually (currently limited to 34%) for management. There are no extra charges for this Savings Plan. You can vary the amount you pay and you are free to cash in your accumulated investment, or part of it, at any time without penalty.

The securities in a unit trust are held in safe custody by the Trustee (one of the major banks). You can follow the progress of your plan by looking up the price of units and the current yield in the Financial Times or other leading newspapers. You buy units at the 'offer' price and sell at the 'bid' price.

SAVINGS PLANS FOR CHILDREN
The minimum age for the Unit Trust Savings Plan is 14, but accounts for younger children can be opened in the name of an adult and designated with the child's full name.

NO EXTRA CHARGES

IN EACH CAPITAL PLEASE

MR/MS/MISS FULL FORENAME(S)

SURNAME

ADDRESS

POST CODE

SP 361915

BANKERS ORDER DO NOT DETACH FROM ENROLLMENT FORM

YOUR BANK SORTING CODE

POSTAL BANK ACCOUNT NO.

PLEASE PAY TO NATIONAL WESTMINSTER BANK PLC, 191, Molesham Street, Chelmsford CM2 0LN, Account No. 95713270 for the credit of M&G Securities Limited (SAVINGS PLAN ACCOUNT), quoting

Account No. (LEAVE BLANK) the sum of £ .00 on the

day of 19 and continue to pay that amount on the day of each

month/quarter until further order in writing from me, and debit my account with you from time to time with such payments.

(PRINT NAME)

ADDRESS

SIGNATURE

TO: M&G SECURITIES LTD., THREE QUAYS, TOWER HILL, LONDON EC3R 6BQ

I WISH TO SUBSCRIBE £ .00 (min £20)

each month to the M&G Unit Trust Savings Plan and I enclose a cheque (made payable to M&G Securities Limited) for my first subscription of

£ .00 (you may wish to start your plan with a lump sum).

I wish my subscription to be invested in the

Fund checked.

If no Fund is circled your plan will be linked to M&G SECOND.

AMERICAN & GEN. INTERNATIONAL INCOME

AUSTRALASIAN JAPAN & GEN.

COMPOUND GROWTH MIDLAND RECOVERY

DIVIDEND SECOND

INTERNATIONAL GROWTH GOLD

The unit will be registered in the name of M&G Securities Limited and held for your account under the rules of the plan.

If the Savings Plan account is being opened for the benefit of a child, please fill in here the full name of the child

I understand that further subscriptions can be made at any time (minimum £20) and that I can realise my holding on any business day without penalty at the bid price ruling.

SIGNATURE

DATE

Registered in England No. 90776

Representative in Ireland

This offer is not available to residents of the Republic of Ireland

M&G

THE M&G GROUP



Household appliances: top of the complaints league

Lindsay Cook explains how dissatisfied customers can put grumbles down on paper

The wise men in the middle

THE Chartered Institute of Arbitrators is still waiting to deal with a complaint about the services of a funeral director, six years after a code of practice was agreed for the industry.

A team of trained arbitrators has been ready and willing to adjudicate on any dispute with a member of the National Association of Funeral Directors since they agreed a code with the Office of Fair Trading. But to date no one has used it.

The code of practice, along with 19 others set up with trade associations under the terms of the Office of Fair Trading, is intended to give customers a hearing without them having to take their case to a County or Small Claims Court.

The arbitrators are kept busy dealing with disputes on subjects ranging from electrical repairs to shirts damaged in the laundry. Heading the league table are household appliances, with 100,000 complaints in 1984 being made to Citizens Advice Bureaux and Trading Standards Departments and ultimately being passed on to the Office of Fair Trading for the arbitrators to deal with. If local agreement cannot be achieved.

Holidays also yield a great many complaints, when reality does not live up to the

paradise offered in brochures. In 1983 the Institute adjudicated on 335 cases for the Association of British Travel Agents.

British Telecom yielded some 90 cases in the year 1981-2, while the Post Office had 13 in six months. The Glass and Glazing Federation average 10 a year.

And the Office of Fair Trading would like more disputes with traders to be settled through the services of the arbitrators, and has produced a booklet to encourage more people to use the codes of practice.

I'm Going To Take It Further details how to steer a complaint through the procedure, which involves no public hearings as everything is dealt with on paper.

To have a complaint dealt with under the arbitration system, the customer has to pay a fee related to the amount of the claim. Generally this works out at £17.25 for claims up to £2,500, £23 for up to £5,000, rising to £40.25 for claims between £10,000 and £25,000. Thereafter £5.75 is added per £2,500. But some organisations such as the Post Office have their own scale of fees.

But this stage is only reached if the trade association cannot settle the dispute themselves to everyone's

satisfaction. The customer is then asked to fill in a form stating the details of their complaint.

The trader then fills in their side of the story and sends the form, together with registration fees to the Institute. The arbitrator then considers all the evidence on the form, together with any exhibits and statements from technical experts or witnesses.

It usually takes about two weeks for a decision to be reached, but occasionally the arbitrator asks for more information. In very complex cases, the decision might be that a court hearing would serve justice more fully. The fee is then refunded and the two parties are advised to go to court.

Should the arbitrators find in your favour, there's every chance the trader will pay up promptly, says the Office of Fair Trading. Under the scheme, the trader is given just three weeks to make the payment, and the trade associations, who want to show that the scheme really does work, will bring pressure to bear on any trader who is slow in paying.

Although the system is informal, the award is final and legally binding on both the claimant and the trader. He may be ordered to pay the customer's registration fee, in

addition to the compensation. But if you lose the case there's no second chance. It cannot then be taken to the courts, and there's only very limited right of appeal.

There's usually no limit to the amount you can claim under the arbitration system, whereas the Small Claims Courts have a limit of £500 in England and Wales. With disputes over larger amounts, dealt with under the County Court system, there's a risk that you could have to pay the trader's legal costs as well as your own.

The Association of Manufacturers of Domestic Electrical Appliances were the first organisation to agree a code of practice with the OFT in 1974. The latest code to be negotiated is designed to give greater protection to motorcyclists when buying new or used machines or having repairs or servicing work done. None of the codes have been scrapped once set up, although British Telecom now have their complaints dealt with under a revised code by the Office of Telecommunications.

Copies of the free booklet on the arbitration system are available from Room 310C, Office of Fair Trading, Field House, Bream's Buildings, London EC4A 1PR.

PICK THE RIGHT RATE FOR YOUR MONEY

FOR INVESTMENTS OF £5,000 AND ABOVE

ANNUAL INTEREST	COMPOUND ANNUAL RATE	GROSS EQUIVALENT
10.03% ⁺	10.50% ⁺	15.01% ⁺
NET	WITH INTEREST ADDED MONTHLY	

FOR INVESTMENTS OF £1,000 AND ABOVE

ANNUAL INTEREST	GROSS EQUIVALENT
10.03% ⁺	14.33% ⁺
NET	

GOLD STAR INSTANT ACCESS. NO PENALTIES.

Invest £5,000 and above in Gold Star with Monthly interest and earn 10.50% compounded annual rate when full monthly interest is added to the account. Invest £1,000 and more and earn an

attractive rate of 10.03% net annual interest. Call at your nearest branch or write to: Gateway Building Society, FREEPOST, Worthing, West Sussex BN13 2BR. Stay one jump ahead.

**GATEWAY
BUILDING SOCIETY**

Balances below £1,000 pay 8.25% net - 11.79% gross equivalent. Basic rate income tax paid. 10% net equivalent for basic rate taxpayers. Rates and terms may vary. Gateway Building Society, Administrative Centre, Gateway House, Durrington Lane, Worthing, West Sussex BN13 2QH. Established 1854. Assets over £1,350 million. Recoveries over £50 million. Trustee Status. Member of the Building Societies Association & Investors' Protection Scheme. District Offices and Agents throughout the UK.

8.15 Sport on

9 News; Breakdown.
 9 News-Sand. Weeklies reviewed.
 5 The Week in Westminster.
 10 Back of the Week.
 11 From Our Own Correspondent.
 12 News; Money Box. Finance
 12 57 I'm Sorry I Haven't a Clue.
 Nonsense quiz.
 1 News; Any Questions? from
 Shanklin. Isle of Wight.
 Michael O'Donnell. Peter Marsh.
 Sue Silver. John Palmer.
 2 News.
 2 News. Afternoon Play: Westmor-
 land by Robert Fergusson.
 News; Instant Sunshine.
 Reasonably Together Again.
 Amiable music and comedy show.

- 4 34 **Admission:** Rise of Edinburgh's financial sector.
- 4 15 **Enterprise.** Finalists in the small business competition.
- 4 45 **Letter** from a Pub.
- 5 25 **Wildlife.**
- 5 28 **Week Ending:** Jaundiced view of the News.
- 6 9 **News.**
- 6 25 **Desert Island Discs:** She'lla Steak.
- 7 5 **Spot the Week.**
- 7 45 **Baker's Dozen.** Favourite records.
- 8 30 **Saturday-Night Theatre:** Who Wrote Marmaduke Hall? by Michael Robson. France, 1916 - in a base-camp hospital the writer Saki tells his last story.

[illegible]

World Service

Cable World Service can be received in the following languages on medium wave (kHz) at the following times GMT:

6 am Newsweek.
7 am News.
8 am News.
9 am News.
10 am News.
11 am News.
12 noon News.
1 pm News.
2 pm News.
3 pm News.
4 pm News.
5 pm News.
6 pm News.
7 pm News.
8 pm News.
9 pm News.
10 pm News.
11 pm News.
12 midnight News.
1 am News.
2 am News.
3 am News.
4 am News.
5 am News.

The following programmes are broadcast on World Service:

6 am Newsweek.
7 am News.
8 am News.
9 am News.
10 am News.
11 am News.
12 noon News.
1 pm News.
2 pm News.
3 pm News.
4 pm News.
5 pm News.
6 pm News.
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8 pm News.
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12 midnight News.
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The following programmes are broadcast on World Service:

6 am Newsweek.
7 am News.
8 am News.
9 am News.
10 am News.
11 am News.
12 noon News.
1 pm News.
2 pm News.
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5 am News.

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7 6 News; Su

7 50 Turning over New Leaves.
8 News: Sunday Papers.
9 10 News: Sunday Papers.
10 Appeal: National Association of
Boys' Clubs.
11 10 News: Sunday Papers.
12 Letter from America by Allstar
Cocke.
13 Morning Service.
14 The Archers. Omnibus edition.
15 15 The Food Programme.
16 Home-ing in. DIT advice.
17 16 News: Ring 01-550 4411
(from 10.30 am) to talk to Dr
Mahatir Mohamad, Prime Minister
of Malaysia.
18 1 The World This Weekend: News.
2 News: Gardeners' Question Time
3 20 News: City: Unman, Witter-
ing and Live.

- 4 **6** **News: The Kettering Connection.** How a bunch of schoolboys became world-famous satellite spotters.
- 4 **30** **The Living World: fossil mysteries.**
- 5 **0** **News: Timber: Profile of conductor Sir Henry Wood.**
- 5 **0** **6 News.**
- 5 **15** **More Wrestling than Dancing.**
- 5 **20** **Book review.**
- 5 **30** **The Meistersinger. Thriller serial by Berkeley Mather (4).**
- 5 **30** **The Thatcher Phenomenon. 2: Hugo Young studies Mrs Thatcher's style of government.**
- 5 **30** **The British in Venice.**
- 5 **30** **A Word in Edgewise.**

0 News; You the Jury, Debate on:
 the BEP should no longer be
 funded by Hecate. 10
 1 There's Music in God, Music and
 theologians (4). Karl Barth.
 1 15 Inside Parliament.
 2 News; weather forecast.
 3 Shipping forecast.
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 5 6 45-7 45 am Open University.
 6-6 pm Study on 4.
 Radio (340m): 4 am As Radio 2, 5
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Service 1 0 News 12 28 Religion
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 Choice 2 20 Music New 5
 News 3 2 News about Britain 3 18 Good
 books 3 0 Anything Good 4 0 News
 Goldfinger 5 45 Recording of
 la Week.

BIRTHS

ELTON — On February 21, 1985, to ANN and SWIFT, a son, Oliver, 8lb 10oz, 20in, 9lb 10oz, 20in, 9lb 10oz, 20in.

ENGAGEMENTS

ELIASH-SCOTT — The engagement of ELIASH-SCOTT, 19, White Hart Parade, London NW1, to ELIASH-SCOTT, 19, White Hart Parade, London NW1, is announced.

MARRIAGES

SPURGEON-MARTIN — On May 4, 1985, at All Saints Church, London, the marriage of SPURGEON-MARTIN, 19, White Hart Parade, London NW1, to SPURGEON-MARTIN, 19, White Hart Parade, London NW1, is announced.

DEATHS

PERRY — On May 9, at her home, 19, White Hart Parade, London NW1, the death of PERRY, 19, White Hart Parade, London NW1, is announced.

CONTRACTS AND TENDERS

GRATEFUL MANCHESTER COUNCIL — The Council is seeking tenders for the construction of a new road bridge over the River Mersey, near the town of Runcorn.

FOR SALE

THE PERFECT PRESENT — A beautiful, hand-crafted wooden box, perfect for storing jewelry or as a gift.

WANTED

WIMBORNE TICKETS WANTED — I am looking for a pair of Wimbome tickets for the 1985 season.

POSTING AND ADOPTION SERVICES

COULD YOU POSTER ADOPT? — We are looking for people who are interested in adopting a child.

MANCHESTER CITY COUNCIL

SOCIAL SERVICES DEPARTMENT — We are looking for people who are interested in adopting a child.

SOFA BED FACTORY

SPRING SALE FINISHES SUNDAY — 340 CALEDONIAN ROAD, LONDON N1. We are having a special sale on our sofas and beds.

QUICK CROSSWORD 4,707

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